

Abdul Ghani to form Yemeni cabinet

SANAA (AFP) — President Ali Abdullah Saleh on Monday called on former Prime Minister Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani to form a new government, the official news agency SABA said. In a presidential decree Mr. Saleh said "in the public interest Mr. Abdul Ghani has been charged with forming the new Yemeni cabinet." Mr. Abdul Ghani, 55, the deputy secretary general of Mr. Saleh's General People's Congress (GPC), was prime minister in North Yemen on two previous occasions from 1975 to 1980 and 1983 to May 1990. Prime Minister Mohammad Said Al Attar presented his government's resignation on Sunday after parliament earlier adopted a new constitution and reelected Mr. Saleh president for a further five-year term. Mr. Attar had been appointed prime minister during Yemen's two-month civil war which erupted on May 5 and lasted until July 7. Mr. Abdul Ghani was a member of the former presidential council which was scrapped under the new constitution adopted on Wednesday, which also provided for the first time for future presidents to be elected by the people.

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Jordan, Israel reach accords on common economic projects

Crown Prince says after White House meeting that it is time for people to gain the fruits of peace without discrimination
Clinton describes agreements as 'building blocks of peace'
Peres sees joint efforts raising the standard of life

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter with agency dispatches

HIS ROYAL Highness Crown Prince Hassan met at the White House on Monday with U.S. President Bill Clinton and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and said afterwards that agreement was reached on several commercial and economic development projects as part of the efforts towards a peace agreement between Jordan and Israel.

President Clinton described the agreements as "the building blocks of peace between these ancient lands," and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin told his parliament that he expected to sign a peace agreement with Jordan by the end of the year.

However, there was no sign of a much-heralded Israeli declaration of its acceptance of Jordan's demands for the return of its

territory and its rightful share of regional water — two key issues that need to be resolved before a peace accord could be signed.

American officials quoted by news agencies said although Jordan and Israel had made considerable progress in the negotiations, the stage had not been reached where they could announce any major breakthrough in the talks towards a peace treaty.

President Clinton, in a short speech at the White House after Monday's trilateral meeting with the Crown Prince and Mr. Peres, described the talks as a "productive session" in advancing the peace process.

Speaking of the agreements on commercial and economic projects, the president said as the Crown Prince and Mr. Peres looked on:

"They have agreed to adopt basic principles to guide the future development of the Jordan Rift Valley

including projects dealing with the environment, water, energy and tourism, to open a new northern border crossing point for third-country nationals by October 15th, to establish a Red Sea marine peace park with assistance from the United States government."

The president also said that Jordan and Israel also agreed to convene a meeting to explore construction of a canal linking the Red Sea with the Dead Sea and would consider establishing a free trade zone in the Aqaba-Eilat area.

Mr. Clinton saluted Prince Hassan and Mr. Peres for their "vision, courage and persistence," saying the United States was "grateful for the opportunity" to take part in the developing relations between the two countries.

He reiterated the United States was working towards a "global peace" in the Middle East and voiced hope that an agreement could be reached between Israel and Syria and

between Israel and Lebanon. He also hailed moves by six Gulf states to ease the economic boycott of Israel saying Friday's decision by the Gulf Cooperation Council was "heartening."

"Promoting trade development and cooperation rather than restraining and hindering normal economic relations should be the hallmark of the new Middle East and Jordan and Israel are leading the way," he said.

Prince Hassan described the meeting as "truthful, candid and frank discussions," adding the two sides must work to "resolve all outstanding bilateral issues, giving relations between our countries a solid, equitable and sustainable basis."

Addressing Mr. Peres, the Crown Prince said: "Over the past two days we have discussed a range of ideas to that end, and I am confident that we will rise together to these challenges and that we will go on to make good the promise

of peace." "The time has come for the peoples of the Middle East to gain a stake in peace, to partake of its fruits without discrimination, without exclusion," the Crown Prince said.

Prince Hassan said it had been "a long journey" and they were not yet at their destination, adding, "with God's help, the farthest shore is now in sight."

Mr. Peres said, "if we succeed in our endeavours, and I do believe we shall, it will serve as a model for many other places."

Mr. Peres said that "a region of problems and wars" had become a "region of hope and promise" which he hoped would "serve as a model to many other places."

"We are going to take parts of the desert and convert it into valleys of peace, agriculture, of tourism," he added.

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His Majesty King Hussein on Monday meets with a delegation representing the tribes of the Beer Saba and Naqab areas (Petra photo)

King reiterates resolve to seek peace and help Palestinians

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein met at the Royal Court on Monday with a delegation representing notables from the Bedouin tribes in Bir Saba and Naqab and reiterated Jordan's determination to pursue efforts towards a lasting peace and helping the Palestinian people attain their national goals.

Welcoming the delegation in Jordan, the King said "the nation salutes the Palestinian people who stood fast on their land, facing the most crucial circumstances and hardships and protecting the Arab identity of their country."

"I welcome you in this country as brothers and wish to reaffirm to you that Jordanian measures and policies are all channelled towards fulfilling our duty towards our kinsmen and removing the barriers that have separated the Arab citizens," King Hussein said.

King Hussein said he

prayed to God to guide him forward towards serving the coming generations through a lasting and honourable peace that would benefit all peoples in this region.

A speaker for the delegation delivered an address voicing the tribes' pride in the King's leadership and support for his peace endeavours.

Present at the meeting was Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the King's advisors, Minister of State Mohammad Thweih and Asem Ghoshieh, director of the Palestinian Affairs Department.

King Hussein also received at the Royal Court Monday Hashem Natsheh, president of the Hebron Chamber of Commerce, who presented the King with a token gift in the name of the worshippers who were killed by a Jewish settler at Al Ibrahim Mosque last February.

Receiving the gift, which is a replica in mother of pearl of Al Ibrahim Mosque, King

Hussein reiterated Jordan's keenness on safeguarding the holy sites and its readiness to continue providing all necessary assistance to the Palestinian people.

The audience was in the presence of the King's advisor on religious affairs, Sheikh Izzeddin Al Khathir Al Tamimi.

King Hussein also received at the Royal Court Monday Dr. Mohammad Burhanuddin, spiritual leader of the Bohra Islamic sect, and a delegation accompanying him.

Dr. Burhanuddin voiced his support for Jordan's efforts towards a just and durable peace.

Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Abadi was present at the meeting.

The Bohra sect is scattered over African countries like Tanzania and Kenya, in the Arab world like Kuwait, and in Pakistan and in India elsewhere in Asia.

Tunisia confirms Israel move

TUNIS (AFP) — Tunisia confirmed for the first time Monday that it is to launch diplomatic ties with Israel, a day after the Jewish state announced the breakthrough. The official Tunisian news agency TAP said Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahia met his Israeli counterpart: Shimon Peres in New York "concerning liaison channels" between their two countries. Tunisian officials had remained tight-lipped Sunday after the Israeli U.N. mission in New York said the two countries were to open interest sections. The Israeli announcement came after talks between Mr. Peres and Mr. Ben Yahia on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly there. According to the Israelis, interest sections are to be opened in the Belgian embassies in Tunis and Tel Aviv, and an economic official will be posted permanently alongside temporary diplomats in each representation.

Syrians in trouble for attending talks

CAIRO (AFP) — Syrians who joined Israelis at a Middle East tourism conference here last week may be expelled from Syria's national tourism and travel offices association, a leading Arabic newspaper said Monday. "It is the right of the association to expel the members who did not abide by its position not to travel to Cairo" for the meeting, Syrian Tourism Minister Al Sayed Abu Sham was quoted as telling the Al Hayat newspaper. Syrian tour operators from two companies attended the conference, which was held in the framework of the economic track of the Middle East multilateral talks.

Five wounded in Israeli shelling

JIDON (AFP) — Five people were wounded in Israeli shelling of a village in South Lebanon overnight Sunday in an apparent retaliation for anti-Israeli attacks, police said. Three men and two women civilians were wounded in the village of Kfar Tibnit on the edge of Israel's self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon.

Rabin: Golan settlements must not prevent peace

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin told a stormy opening session of parliament Monday that the settlers in the Golan Heights must not stand in the way of the chance for real peace with Syria.

"I want to ask you, my comrades on the Golan Heights, what do we do? not try? Not make an effort to reach a peace? Reject outright the possibility to put an end to war?" Mr. Rabin said in the hour-long speech.

He was heckled from the start with cries of "retreat." One opposition member used a portable stereo system to boom across the chamber a 1992 campaign speech when he said Israel would not come down from the Heights. The speaker of the parliament, or Knesset, ejected the member.

Opposition Likud Party leader Benjamin Netanyahu started his response to Mr. Rabin by accusing the ruling

Labour Party of abandoning the Zionist ideals that lead to the creation of Israel.

Mr. Rabin stood up to challenge him, but was drowned out by the noise of all the members shouting, and stormed out for five minutes.

Mr. Rabin said that the peace treaty with Syria hinged on four points, including an agreement on a border line, on the timetable for a staged withdrawal from the Golan Heights, a test of normalised relations and security arrangements.

There are differences with the Syrians on all four issues, Mr. Rabin said. Syria has demanded a full withdrawal and is reported reluctant to establish normal ties that would involve things like tourism and embassies.

The prime minister said the security arrangements were the most important factor. "I stress that only security arrangements that satisfy us will allow us to take the chance

of withdrawing from the Golan," he said.

The prime minister repeated that any significant change on the Golan would be taken to the public for a referendum.

In a reference to his earlier campaign remarks, Mr. Rabin admitted that he did not always feel that giving up the Golan was possible. "If my steps towards peace is a change in position, then I changed my position," he said.

Mr. Netanyahu said the army presence on the Golan was what prevented war with Syria.

There is peace "because there are tanks on Mount Hermon and they threaten Damascus, and that is the whole difference and now, prime minister, you are taking the tanks off the mountain," he said.

"Don't lie to people," he charged in his reply to Mr.

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Syria says optimism unjustified

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Syria said Monday that a "climate of optimism" about Middle East peace is unjustified and declared that a comprehensive peace requires Israeli withdrawal from the entire Syrian Golan and southern Lebanon.

"The return of the entire Golan is not open to compromise, it is not open to unjustified delay, nor is it open to a misplaced testing of intentions," Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa told the General Assembly.

Mr. Sharaa, taking a tough line against Israel, said the Jewish state has fuelled tensions by refusing to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, by falsely suggesting the Mideast peace process was scoring great gains and by claiming that Syria started the armed clashes between 1949 and 1967.

"The climate of optimism trumpeted by Israel about the great advances achieved in the peace process is not accurate, except from the Israeli point of view," the Syrian envoy said, speaking in Arabic.

"The ongoing peace process cannot be completed without an Israeli withdrawal from the entire Syrian Golan and the south of Lebanon."

Mr. Sharaa said peace was a "strategic choice" for Syria, which was serious in desiring a peace that reestablished the rights of both parties.

But the return of the Golan Heights is not open to compromise, to unjustified delay or to a misplaced testing of intentions," he said.

"On this basis Syria supports a genuine peace that lives and flourishes without forged obstacles or imposed conditions," he said.

"Burdening the peace process with more than what it can take does not help peace; rather it poses danger to it," Mr. Sharaa said. "Peace process should not be inflected with things which fall beyond its framework."

The Syrian minister also appealed to Israel to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and open its nuclear installations to inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Israel, PLO clash on pullout

CAIRO (Agencies) — Talks between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on staging Palestinian self-rule elections stumbled Monday as Israeli negotiators refused to discuss an army withdrawal from the West Bank.

"I can state that this week's negotiations will focus only on the modalities of elections" to a Palestinian autonomous council, said Hunnie Jeshurun, spokeswoman for Israeli delegation chief Danny Rothchild.

"He (Rothchild) has been mandated only to discuss the elections," she added.

The PLO insists the Israeli army must redeploy from Palestinian population centres on the West Bank before elections to a Palestinian council take place.

Saeh Erakat, head of the Palestinian delegation to the talks, said the issue of elections and army redeployment should be treated simultaneously.

"The interim (autonomy) agreement is not concerned only with elections," Dr.

Erakat said.

"For the elections to take place the Israelis will have to redeploy their forces from the populated areas of the West Bank. We suggested that we negotiate in a parallel approach, rather than a sequential approach."

Talks on elections began at a Cairo hotel on Monday and are to end Wednesday. General Rothchild and Dr. Erakat, also local government minister, set an agenda Monday morning.

Dr. Erakat said he also wanted the negotiations to take on the issue of Israel's military regulations, issued since the West Bank was occupied in 1967.

Under the Israeli-PLO declaration of principles signed last year the Israeli army is to pull back from Palestinian towns on the West Bank by the eve of polling for a self-rule council, originally scheduled for July.

It also provides for a joint review by the two sides of laws and regulations issued by the Israeli military administration in the occupied territories.

Israel and the PLO have yet to reach agreement on the modalities of the elections including a date and the size and powers of the council that will emerge.

Dr. Erakat, who is overseeing the election organisation, has handed Israel a document calling for a parliament based in East Jerusalem with 100 members and wide powers of legislation.

However, Israel foresees a 20-member autonomy council in one of the self-rule zones and powers to enact only secondary legislation.

The Palestinians presented their election plan to the Jewish state in August and were expecting answers in Cairo.

"The Israelis are objecting to everything. They don't want elections now, they say it is too early," Palestinian official Mohammad Subeih told Reuters.

Palestinian sources said the two sides differed sharply on the powers of the elected council.

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A U.S. soldier carries a wounded man to a nearby U.S. military station in Port-au-Prince. The man had reportedly been beaten by a mob before being found on the street by U.S. troops (AFP photo)

U.S. forces seize HQ of dreaded Haiti militia

PORT-AU-PRINCE (Agencies) — American tanks and troops took over the headquarters of a pro-army militia group on Monday, hoping to deal a fatal blow to forces opposed to the return of exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

The takeover of the headquarters of the Front for the Advancement and Progress of Haiti (FRAPH) came hours after an American soldier was shot and wounded in the south coast city of Les Cayes.

American forces had been criticised for not stepping in Friday when at least five people were killed in a clash between militiamen and pro-democracy demonstrators at the FRAPH headquarters.

Joyous Haitians cheered as more than 100 U.S. soldiers in military jeeps and three Sheridan tanks surrounded the building, then burst in

and dragged out about 35 FRAPH army auxiliaries as well as grenades, guns and ammunition. The pro-army Haitians were detained for questioning.

As the Americans pulled out, city residents surged towards the building that once housed Haiti's most-feared thugs, smashing the furniture and goods that remained inside. Others serenaded a departing American troop truck, singing "We love you, we love you."

"We don't need attaches" Haitians screamed in delight, referring to the FRAPH gunmen who terrorised the populace to help keep Haiti's military in power. "Down with attaches."

At the same time, American soldiers searched militia leaders' homes. The Americans also detained 10 blue-uniformed Haitian policemen who showed up nearby. Hai-

tian police have often worked in concert with FRAPH. Female soldiers searched four FRAPH women and seized grenades concealed in their clothing. One woman had a clip of bullets hidden in her shirt.

"We seized all the weapons, all the documents and all the people we found inside," Captain J.B. Shattuck said. Soldiers also found machetes and clubs inside the house.

On Sunday, U.S. troops detained Romeo Halloun, who directed security for army chief Raoul Cedras and was once a member of a black-masked group of private militiamen known as the Ninjas.

Also arrested were Mr. Halloun's brother, Ramses, and other men who U.S. officials said included other

(Continued on page 7)

Israel sees boom as boycott fizzles

By Dan Perry

TEL AVIV — Israel greeted the easing of the Arab boycott with visions of multi-nationals clamouring to invest in the Jewish state, transformed into the economic fulcrum of a new Middle East.

Banner headlines Sunday predicted an investment "avalanche" following the announcement that Saudi Arabia and the other Gulf emirates would stop boycotting firms doing business with Israel.

Despite warnings the hopes may be exaggerated — direct business contacts remain off-limits and the U.S.-brokered breakthrough does not apply to most Muslim countries — the Tel Aviv stock exchange index jumped three per cent.

As if to underscore the limited nature of Friday's move, the Arab League issued a statement in Cairo stressing that the direct boycott of Israeli firms would continue. The league refused to consider changing the boycott at its last meeting in September.

In Israel, the boogie appeared partly aimed at selling the wary public on the government's peace policies, economic well-being a key point of getting support for the year-old pact with the Palestinians. The news also distracted attention from a likely painful withdrawal from the strategic Golan Heights in exchange for peace with Syria.

"The announcement creates a totally new atmosphere in the Middle East," said Yoram Shani, the foreign ministry official in charge of dealing with the boycott.

The news coincided with reports that a delegation of Israeli businessmen was in Kuwait. It was part of a widening circle of economic contacts that includes Tunisia and Morocco. Both just established low-level economic ties with Israel, the first since Egypt took the unprecedented step of a peace treaty in 1979.

Radio reports quoted Energy Minister Moshe Shahal as saying the Gulf states were interested in transporting oil to Europe via Israeli ports — a rare chance by resource-poor Israel to tap into the oil industry that has enriched many of its neighbours.

Ultimately, Israel wants the boycott lifted more to attract foreign investment than for potential trade with the Arab World.

Danny Gillerman, head of the federation of Israeli chambers of commerce, predicted Israel was about to become "the regional centre of economic activity."

Most of the focus was on stimulating ties with the industrialised countries similar to Israel, whose economy is growing at a five per cent annual rate and has reached a per capita income level similar to that in the West.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said he believed many European companies that had silently complied with the boycott — which is illegal in the United States — would mend their ways.

Mr. Gillerman said the 48-year boycott cost the economy a total of \$40 billion, shrinking foreign investments by a fifth and exports by a tenth each year.

But economist Eli Saguy said the poor investment derived from the lingering threat of war and not the boycott, noting the weekend development comes after several years of increasing foreign presence in Israel.

Companies like Holiday Inn, PepsiCo and Toyota have all moved into the Israeli market in the past two years, and the Israeli landscape is dotted with American outlets.

"What is important is not the end of the boycott but the peace process, which is the real reason for the invigorated trade we are seeing," he told the Associated Press. "If we were in a state of war, these firms would stay away even without any Arab boycott."

Industrialist Moshe Nahum said the primary windfall might come from Western giants tapping into Israel's advanced hi-tech industry.

Foreign investment here has rarely exceeded several hundred million dollars a year, far less than in other countries with comparable populations and economies like New Zealand, which nets around \$2 billion in investment annually.

"If we get \$100 million of investment its ripple effect could create \$400 million of wealth," Mr. Nahum said.

Despite signs of progress, said Harry Wall, Israel director of the Anti-Defamation League, a pro-Israel lobby group, "it will take a long time until we see proof of sincerity."

Although Knait announced it was ending its boycott last year, "it remains number one" in questioning Western companies about their past ties with Israel, Mr. Wall maintained.



KING MEETS BOHRA LEADER: His Majesty King Hussein on Monday receives at the Royal Court Dr. Muhammad

Burhanuddin, spiritual leader of the Bohra Islamic sect (see page one) (Petra photo)

Berbers hold huge protest

ALGIERS (AP) — Berbers demanding official recognition of their language and the release of an activist singer kidnapped a week ago protested by the tens of thousands Sunday, while a radical Islamic group reportedly vowed to renew its holy war.

More than 100,000 people took part in the peaceful demonstration in the Berber capital of Tizi Ouzou, east of Algiers, marked by calls and threats for the safe return of Lounes Matoub.

Authorities say Islamic guerrillas kidnapped the noted Berber singer who spoke out against the 25-year-old Islamic insurgency that has left more than 10,000 people dead.

The most radical armed faction, the Armed Islamic Group, said in a clandestine bulletin that Mr. Matoub was seized by "Mujahideen," fighters but did not directly take responsibility for the Sept. 25 kidnapping.

In a communiqué received by the French news agency, Agence France Presse, the Armed Islamic Group said its consultative council decided to continue its "jihad," or holy war, against "unbelievers... to install the law of God."

The communiqué also announced the appointment of a noted figure in the fundamentalist movement, Mohammed Said, as its new chief, replacing Cherif Gousmi, killed by security forces a week ago.

The authenticity of the communiqué could not be immediately confirmed. Islamic sources contacted here

denied it was authentic. They noted a communiqué issued by the group in August announcing the formation of a caliphate government that proved incorrect.

Said, an imam and educator who has been in hiding for more than two years, was a leading member of the Islamic Salvation Front, the banned movement whose thwarted victory in January 1992 legislative elections triggered the Islamic insurgency rocking the country ever since.

Meanwhile, the Islamic Salvation Army, the Islamic Salvation Front's armed wing, chastised France for allegedly supporting the military-backed government in its repression of fundamentalists. It called for a boycott of French products and a "political and cultural rupture" with France.

In a communiqué received by the Associated Press, the armed group cited hostile declarations, financial pressure and the presence of gendarmes and "military experts" in Algeria as signs of a French role in the "unprecedented repression."

France launched a crackdown on fundamentalists after five French citizens were killed Aug. 3, the latest of 17 Frenchmen — out of 61 foreigners — killed in Algeria in a year. It has sent gendarmes to protect diplomatic quarters.

Algerian military-backed authorities were becoming increasingly embattled with the growing protest in the Berber

Kayble region, where schools have been boycotted since opening Sept. 10. Berbers are growing increasingly restless for a nearly 15-year battle for recognition to Tamazight, the Berber language.

"Without Tamazight, there will be no peace," said Ferhat Mehenni, who heads the Berber Cultural Movement.

Berbers, who claim to be the original inhabitants of North Africa, want their language recognised by the state and taught in schools alongside Arabic, the official language of Algeria. There are no official statistics on the size of the Berber population in this country of 26 million people.

The Berber Cultural Movement plans simultaneous protests Wednesday and Thursday in four cities, including Algiers and Tizi Ouzou, 95 kilometres east.

The kidnapping of Mr. Matoub added fuel to their fight. Berbers have been among the most vocal opponents of political Islam. Some Berber communities have mounted self-defence groups against Islamic guerrillas who have infiltrated the Berbers' once safe mountain enclave.

"Free Matoub or we will sow terror," "Matoub or the rifle," yelled the crowd in spontaneous chants that rolled up the mountains surrounding Tizi Ouzou.

A threat of "total war" by the Berber Cultural Movement after Mr. Matoub was kidnapped was rescinded so as not to compromise his safety in the event he remained alive.



Benjamin Netanyahu

Netanyahu presents his plan

By Sarah Honig
The Jerusalem Post

THE nation must now choose between ceding every inch of the Golan and the Likud option of remaining exactly where we now are, Likud Chairman Benjamin Netanyahu said yesterday as he summed up his party's deliberations on its alternative policy for the territories.

Netanyahu presented his plan to the Likud's political committee and warned that "this government is rushing headlong back to the 1947 partition lines." His plan calls for limited autonomy in Arab population centres in the territories, but stresses that the Arab areas will not have territorial continuity whereas the Jewish settlements will.

The ultimate responsibility for security will be the IDF's and it will retain the freedom to act anywhere, if and when the need arises.

"This will be autonomy and not another Arab state," Netanyahu emphasised.

The plan also calls for retaining Jerusalem unified under full Israeli control, renewing the settlement drive, controlling the water resources, and not permitting the return of deportees and refugees.

In all phases of the agreement there would be greater emphasis on the Jordanians as partners in order to replace the deals with the PLO, which the Likud does not accept as a partner for negotiations, the Likud leader said.

MK Ariel Sharon will present his own set of proposals to the Likud political committee next week.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Israel seeks stronger ties with China

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel will be looking to reinvigorate economic relations with China during the visit this week Beijing's Deputy Prime Minister Zou Jiahua, officials Monday. Israel's Ambassador to China Moshe Ben Yehoshua voiced hope that the four-day trip will "deepen economic ties" which have somewhat stagnated. Mr. Zou, with responsibility for economic, industrial and agricultural development, was to arrive Monday evening and hold talks with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin who went to Beijing last October. Diplomatic relations were established January 24, 1992, but civilian two-way trade stands at \$100 million. However, according to foreign reports, Israel exports about \$1 billion a year in military goods to China. Israel gives no figures for arms exports. The ambassador urged Israeli companies to work for a trade breakthrough. Israel plans for a \$460-million porash factory in China have stumbled over financing. "Israeli firms trading with China need stamina. Things don't happen overnight in China," Mr. Ben Yehoshua told journalists. Finance Minister Avraham Shohat is expected to visit China in the coming months in a bid to spur on trade.

Bird project a big hit in UAE

ABU DHABI (AP) — Organisers of the Abu Dhabi shorebird project said Sunday they have netted over 450 birds of various species in biggest-ever such study in the Middle East. Of more than 300 shorebirds they attracted, the lesser sandpiper was the most numerous followed by sandpiper, grey plover, lesser sand plover and dunlin. These birds were caught with nets at night and released unharmed after being ringed, measured and weighed. A total of 466 birds of 38 species were ringed by the team of internationally known researchers from Poland, France and the Netherlands. A total of 204 species were observed during the whole project. The measurement data will be statistically analysed and compared with findings in other parts of the world over the next months, said Erik Hirschfeld, chairman of the Emirates Birds Records Committee and one of the top birders in the region. The project, which began in August, has obtained some very important information relating to origins of shorebirds as well as specialised topics such as how to age and identify different sub-species of lesser sand plovers. The most unexpected finding of the project was sighting of the two lesser noddies, a sea-bird that breeds on island in the central Indian Ocean at Dibba in the emirate of Fujairah. Mr. Hirschfeld said.

Iranian forces seize narcotics, liquor

NICOSIA (AP) — Security forces have seized 900 kilograms of opium in a sweep last week in the southwestern Iranian province of Sistan-Baluchestan, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Sunday. A kilogramme of heroin, six rifles, ammunition and 3,000 boxes of foreign-made cigarettes were also confiscated from smugglers in the province, which borders Pakistan. IRNA, monitored in Cyprus, said that in the southern province of Fars, security forces seized last week 1,078 cans of beer and 280 litres of alcohol. Ten people were detained in connection with smuggling these products. Also in Fars, 21 kilograms of opium and 66 kilograms of morphine were confiscated.

Israeli liaison head arrives in Morocco

RABAT (AFP) — The head of Israel's first liaison bureau in Morocco, David Dado, arrived in Rabat from Paris on Sunday to take up his post, an authoritative source said. Mr. Dado, 45, himself from the southern Moroccan town of Marrakesh, had previously worked as Israel's director of relations with Arab states at the Jewish state's foreign ministry. He is the first Israeli diplomat to be appointed to a post in Morocco. Of the Arab states, only Egypt had previously bailed an Israeli diplomatic representation. Morocco and Israel announced on Sept. 1 they had decided to open liaison bureaux in Tel Aviv and Gaza — now under Palestinian autonomy — as well as Rabat. Mr. Dado's arrival went almost unnoticed, with no press or television coverage.

Lithuania to seek suspected Nazi from U.S.

TEL AVIV (AP) — The prime minister of Lithuania apologised to the Jewish state Sunday for the Nazi persecution of its Jews and said that his country would demand that the United States extradite a Lithuanian native suspected of war crimes. The war crimes issue came after Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius held talks with his Israeli counterpart, Yitzhak Rabin. Both sides downplayed the matter, the Lithuanian's remarks concentrating on improving future ties with the Jewish state. The man in question is Aleksandras Lileikis, an 87-year-old retired publishing company employee living in Norwood, Massachusetts. Now an American citizen, he allegedly headed the Lithuanian security police, which took part in a campaign to murder 60,000 Lithuanians even before the Nazi occupation started. During World War II, the Nazis and Lithuanians kill 200,000 people.

Thai army buys Israeli communication kit

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli electronics leader Tadiran has won a \$78-million contract to supply communications and electronic intelligence equipment to the Thai army, the company said Monday. The voice and data communications systems will be supplied over three years with the first shipment before the end of 1994. Tadiran Telecommunications Group, a subsidiary of the giant Koor Industries cooperative run by Israeli trade union federation, agreed to establish a production line in Thailand for a hand-held communications system. Tadiran has exported battlefield communications equipment to armed forces in North and South America as well as Australia and the Far East.

Jewish settlers in Golan — anxious and waiting

By Gwae Ackerman
The Associated Press

EL ROM — Carol Krugel still pulls the weeds from the flower bed outside her small apartment, but she wonders whether she will see the cherry trees bloom in spring.

Krugel, like other residents on this collective farm, is wrestling with the fear that the Syrian border 13 kilometres away is about to encompass her home.

The 45 families here were waiting for a speech by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Monday for clues whether Israel's first peace payment to Syria will include their land.

"If I am to be a bargaining chip, I want to be — if not partner to a decision — at least kept up-to-date in a

bumane, organised fashion," said kibbutz secretary Shimon Fufus.

Reports about an emerging U.S.-brokered deal sweep through here at regular intervals, but the government denies anything concrete has been negotiated. Everyone expects any decision to come before the middle of 1995, when both Israel and the United States are involved in election campaigns.

El Rom is famous in Israel for printing the subtitles on foreign films and videos. It also grows apples and grapes, and breeds cattle.

The community has tried to avoid politics. It supported, but did not join, a recent 19-day hunger strike against returning any of the Golan Heights to Syria.

Residents consider themselves moderates among the

13,000 Israelis living in 33 settlements in the Golan, "annexed" by Israel in 1981.

But some are turning 40 and wondering what they will do without the kibbutz.

"It is a sense of loss very similar to death in a way," said Ms. Krugel, a 40-year-old mother of three and high school English teacher who moved to El Rom from New York in 1978. "People who came here generally believed that we were here to stay."

El Rom was founded four years after Israel seized Golan from Syria in the 1967 Middle East war, and was almost overrun during the 1973 war.

It sits across the road from the sweeping bluff where Israeli tanks fought a crucial battle to turn back Syrian troops. Some of the older buildings bear bullet scars

and a war memorial is held annually nearby.

Outside the small kibbutz library is an old stone marker for the Lebanon-Syrian frontier that someone brought back from some battle. Some wonder if it is about to mark a new border.

Syria insists that Israel return all of the Golan in exchange for peace. Mr. Fufus agrees that El Rom would move if the public voted to pull out.

But the uncertainty taints their lives. Daily tasks take a little extra mental prodding. The community is trying to put its money into things it can move. A social worker goes from house to house, helping families deal with the anxiety of facing an uncertain future.

"What do you say to the children, when you don't know yourself?" Krugel asks.

Golan to test the peace over three years. Government officials have said the slice would not include any settlements, but Syria is believed to want at least one as a precedent.

Mr. Rabin has promised to bring any peace agreement with Syria to a referendum. Both Ms. Krugel and Mr. Fufus agree that El Rom would move if the public voted to pull out.

But the uncertainty taints their lives. Daily tasks take a little extra mental prodding.

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"What do you say to the children, when you don't know yourself?" Krugel asks.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:00 Alice Au Pays De Merveilles
17:30 Un Pour Tous
18:00 Les Six Compagnons
19:00 News in French
19:10 Nature of Things
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Leave It To Beaver
21:20 Shades of L.A.
22:00 News in English
22:30 The Upper Hand

PRAYER TIMES

04:09 Fajr
05:26 Sunrise
11:25 Dhuhr
14:47 Asr
17:23 Maghrib
18:40 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sweithel, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 63785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622266

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775361

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 625226

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 694195

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 624952

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675491

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be hot with winds easterly moderate to active. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and seas choppy.

Min./Max. temp. 19/34

Amman 25 / 37

Dead Sea 17 / 35

Jordan Valley 22 / 39

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 34, Aqaba 36, Humidity

readings: Amman 21 per cent, Aqaba 34 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Jum'a Abu Dhiab 758848
Dr. Yousef Abdel 694916
Dr. Bassim Qaddumi 648533
Dr. Mohammad Al Ghoul 790733
First pharmacy 661912
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Al Asasa pharmacy 637055
Nairookh pharmacy 623672
Al Salameh pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmoussi pharmacy 637660
Nairookh pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632

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Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Monday meets with visiting Vice President and Minister of Finance of the Brussels capital region Jos Chabert (Petra photo)

Majali, visiting Belgian minister review Europe's support for peace process

By Cathy King

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Monday met with Jos Chabert, the visiting vice president and minister of finance of the Brussels regional government and discussed Europe's support of the Arab-Israeli peace talks.

During the meeting, also attended by Minister of Industry and Trade Rima Khalaf, the officials discussed developments in the Middle East peace process and cooperation between Jordan and Belgium to assist the accomplishment of a just, durable and comprehensive peace.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. Chabert said that Dr. Majali had asked whether Europe would continue to support and enhance the Middle Eastern effort towards peace.

Mr. Chabert said that he would deliver a message to European makers stressing that His Majesty King Hus-

sein, Dr. Majali and the people of Jordan were conscientiously aiming for peace in the region.

According to Mr. Chabert, the discussions focused on peace and economic development. He also said that sustained stability in the region would be a major factor in guaranteeing a brighter future for Jordan.

The search for peace requires a step-by-step approach which will gradually lead to an increase in tourism and expansion of the economy, he added. He said that the U.S. and Europe were one political bloc fighting for democracy and were working together to help developing countries.

"Jordan has a good functional democratic structure and is working for peace," Mr. Chabert said.

Mr. Chabert is aware that market policy here is becoming increasingly open, and he said he would convey a message to Belgian businesspersons that there is a future in investment in Jordan. He

added that a Belgium business mission visited Jordan two years ago, and he would encourage it to return to witness the progress made since the peace process gained momentum and many previous tensions have subsided.

Mr. Chabert said trade between the two countries was modest and the balance was in favour of Belgium.

He added, however, that the "volume of Jordanian foreign trade was in good shape."

During Mr. Chabert's first day in the Kingdom he also held separate discussions with the ministers of trade and industry, tourism, foreign affairs and supply.

The prime objective of Mr. Chabert's visit is to enhance bilateral relations and to obtain a clearer impression of the Kingdom, he said.

Over the next few days, he will visit Petra, Aqaba and the Dead Sea, and although no firm arrangements have been made, he expects there will be other opportunities to meet high-ranking officials.

Morocco, Jordan expand trade ties with signing of new agreement

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A new trade agreement between Jordan and Morocco welcomes expanded trade between the two countries.

The commercial agreement, signed Monday by Moroccan Minister of Trade and Industry Edris Hatto and his Jordanian counterpart, Rima Khalaf, replaces a 1978 agreement.

The new pact includes provisions that facilitate giving complete customs exemptions to both countries. It also promises commercial trade exhibitions for the two countries, and complies with GATT (the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade); Morocco is a GATT member and Jordan's application to the international trade agreement is currently under consideration.

Increasing liberalisation and privatisation in both Jordan and Morocco have led to a provision that encourages visits of private sector trade delegations to both countries.

The current volume of trade between the countries can be considered insignificant. Jordanian exports to Morocco in the first half of 1994 are estimated at JD 500,000 and are represented mainly by medical products, carpets, products from the Dead Sea and irrigation equipment.

Imports for the same



Minister of Industry and Trade Rima Khalaf and Moroccan Minister of Trade Edris Hatto Monday sign a Trade agreement (Petra photo)

period from the Maghreb country are estimated at JD 1.5 million.

Morocco's exports to Jordan consist mainly of processed fish, clothing and general textiles. The nation's volume

of trade with the Kingdom for 1993 totalled a meagre \$6 million.

"During past years, commerce between the two countries has been hindered by high customs and limited pri-

vatization, but increased participation from private sectors should encourage expanded and diversified trade," said Fath'alla Sijilnassi, director for International Affairs at the Moroccan Ministry for Trade, Industry and Foreign Trade.

Morocco's efforts to expand trade with Jordan signifies the Kingdom's increasing political and economic importance in the region.

Arab air carriers group to cut expenses

AMMAN (J.T.) — Seventeen Arab airlines Monday opened a two-day meeting here to discuss controlling expenditures and ensuring better profits through closer cooperation among themselves and coordination with the Arab Air Carriers Organisation (AACO).

Royal Jordanian (RJ) President and Chief Executive Officer Nader Dahabi told the delegates gathered at Forte Grand Hotel that controlling and reducing expenses was vital to securing profits.

Referring to current competition among airlines, Mr. Dahabi said unorganised and uncoordinated ticket sales

could pose major risks to the Arab airlines.

RJ Vice President For Marketing Sales Majdi Sabri urged Arab airlines to launch joint plans for development and cooperation with a view to reducing expenses and ensuring higher profits. AACO Secretary General Adli Dajani echoed the call for closer cooperation among Arab airlines as essential in facing worldwide competition in air transport expected in the coming decade.

In the past four years world airlines together reported an overall loss of \$15 billion, a sum, he said, exceeding the total amount of profits made since their establishment.



Arab Air Carriers Organisation Secretary General Adli Dajani (second left) and Jordanian President Nader Dahabi Monday preside over a yield management seminar

German ambassador pays tribute to Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — German Ambassador to Jordan Heinrich Reiners on Monday paid tribute to His Majesty King Hussein's "pivotal and most positive role" in the Middle East peace process and said the European countries deeply appreciate and respect this role.

Speaking in an interview with Petra on the eve of Germany's national day, Dr. Reiners said a lasting peace would no doubt have its most positive effects on the Middle East region politically and economically.

The recent meeting between King Hussein and Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin, Dr. Reiners said, reaffirms the real progress achieved between Israel and Jordan on the path towards peace.

"Germany is anxious to see a speedy end to the process and a final settlement crowned with a peace treaty that can safeguard the interests of Jordan, Israel and the other peoples of the region and acceptable to all parties," the ambassador said.

He said Germany fully supports the Israeli-Jordanian moves and Jordanian policies and would provide all possible help to make the peace process a success. He noted that Germany had been providing assistance individually and through its partners in the European Union.

King Hussein's recent visit to Germany, the ambassador said, achieved positive results and helped to secure a write-off of \$55 million of Jordan's

debts to Bonn.

Germany, Dr. Reiners said, is determined to help Jordan increase its exports to German markets and to adjust the balance of trade between the two countries through providing assistance to raise the quality of Jordanian goods reaching and providing services to farmers enabling them to export their produce to Germany, especially in winter.

Dr. Reiners said more than 1,000 Jordanian students are studying at German universities and 16 German university professors arrived here last year to help teach science and technology. He said more than 100 German specialists are employed to help promote Jordanian-German relations.

Jordan to host preparatory meeting of Arab states for Habitat conference

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan will host a pan-Arab preparatory meeting this month well in advance of a United Nations-sponsored conference on Habitat due to be held in Turkey in June 1996, according to Yousef Hiyasat, director general of the Housing and Urban Development Department (HUDD).

Speaking on World Habitat Day, Monday, Mr. Hiyasat said that the Amman meeting, to be attended by delegates from various Arab countries, was expected to review population and urban development indicators in the Arab World.

So far HUDD has built housing units benefiting ab-

out 250,000 citizens at a cost of JD 330 million, said Mr. Hiyasat in outlining housing schemes.

Last month Mr. Hiyasat was quoted as saying that HUDD was preparing studies and designs for the construction of 11,000 housing units over the next five years at an estimated cost of JD 90 million.

Saying that Jordan does not suffer from a housing problem, Mr. Hiyasat added that the political changes in the region were expected to bring about a sharp demand for housing facilities, coinciding with economic and social developments.

He said the Kingdom

needs closer cooperation between the public and private sectors in setting up housing units at reasonable costs for limited income groups.

Mr. Hiyasat said HUDD and the ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment were seeking to convert some agricultural lands on which to build such housing units.

He said HUDD also intends to establish a system to encompass all housing projects whereby infrastructure networks precede the construction of units in order to avoid random building and to ensure all basic services to the beneficiaries.

Ministry awards contracts for new roads

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Agriculture Monday awarded several local companies contracts worth a total of JD 217,000 for the construction of agricultural roads within the Zarqa River Basin.

A statement by the ministry said that the local firms will build a JD 113,000 10-kilometre road in the Balqa region within six months; a JD 6,000 six-kilometre road in Mafraq Governorate in five months, and a JD 98,000 seven-kilometre road in Zarqa Governorate.

The statement said the roads were part of an overall project aimed at developing the river basin and improving its infrastructure services to the agricultural sector, noting that a JD 1 million budget has been allocated for road construction in that area.

The statement also said the development project is being executed in conjunction with the Ministry of Public Works and Housing.

According to the statement other local firms will be awarded tenders soon for the construction of agricultural roads in the Amman and Jerash governorates.

Defendant confesses to cinema bombing

AMMAN (AP) — One of 25 Muslim extremists on trial for sabotage and assassination attempts Sunday admitted in court that he had set off a Jan. 26 explosion at a movie house showing a pornographic film.

The defendant lost both his legs in the blast, which went off prematurely at the downtown Rivoli theater. Four other people were seriously wounded.

The 25 defendants are being tried at the State Security Court, three of them in absentia. Court orders ban the media from identifying the defendants and carrying detailed reports of the proceedings.

Of the 14 defendants who have taken the stand, the confessed bomber was the only one so far to uphold his pre-trial testimony to interrogators. The others have all retracted their confessions, claiming they were extracted under "physical pressure."

The defendants' rebuttal began Saturday after the prosecution had concluded its case against them 10 days ago. The trial began Aug. 27.

During Sunday's five-hour session, another defendant told the three-judge panel that he had possessed explosives. But he denied involvement in any sabotage attacks

or plots.

The hearing resumes today.

The men have been accused of plotting to destabilise the Kingdom through a wave of bombings at public and private institutions in late 1993 and early 1994.

They face the death penalty for also attempting to kill Jordanian and Palestinian officials in peace negotiations with Israel and plotting attacks against Israeli and Jewish interests in the region.

The accused are known as "Arab Afghans," or Muslim volunteers who fought alongside Mujahideen factions against Soviet forces during the Afghan war that ended in 1990.

Prosecution witnesses, mostly police officers, have told the military court that homemade explosives confiscated from the defendants' homes in February matched those that had gone off at liquor stores and cinemas showing pornographic films.

Muslim extremists are vehemently opposed to the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages and lewd programmes because they contravene with Islamic teachings. They are also opposed to the U.S.-sponsored Arab-Israeli peace process.

Toddler suffocates while alone at home

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A 4-year-old child in Jabal Amman, who was left alone in her house, was killed Sunday after a gas stove fell on her, according to Public Security Department (PSD) reports.

The report said the girl, identified only as Z.A.H., apparently tugged at the medium-size stove and it fell over, pinning her under it.

In his testimony to police, the girl's father, who was at work at the time of the accident, said that his wife had to leave home to take their 10-year-old daughter to the hospital and left the toddler at home alone.

It was the father who first discovered the child under the stove. He rushed her to Al Bashir hospital, but the attending doctor said the child had died of suffocation.

Meanwhile, police on Monday were investigating

what they consider the mysterious death of a 50-year-old man who was found in his house Sunday evening.

Ali S.A., was found by his mother laying on his bed when she went to check on him, the report said. The man was taken to Al Bashir Hospital for an autopsy. PSD reports said. Police declined further comment and said they are investigating the case.

Ten people were injured Sunday in "Fakou", a small town in Karak, after a fight erupted between two tribes, police and Civil Defence Department (CDD) reports said.

A CDD official told the Jordan Times Monday that 10 people out of the 59 involved in the brawl were taken to the hospital. All 10 were listed in fair to good condition.

Police said they have detained the rest pending further investigation into the case.

The report said that both parties filed complaints against each other.

Foundation to mark Cerebral Palsy Day

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cerebral Palsy Foundation (CPF) is marking cerebral Palsy Day on Thursday with a series of activities including lectures and cultural events aimed at spreading public awareness about the condition and helping children with cerebral palsy, according to CPF President Fakhri Bilbeisi.

Mr. Bilbeisi Sunday told a press conference in Amman that one of the foundation's events will be a sponsored charity walk which will be held in conjunction with the

Inter-Continental Hotel on Friday, Oct. 14 to raise donations for the CPF's humanitarian work.

The walk will start at 10 a.m. from Mecca Street and end at Al Hussein Sports City, a CPF official Sunday.

Since its establishment in 1976 the CPF has cared for 7,750 children suffering from cerebral palsy at its six centres in Amman, Irbid, Zarqa, Salt, Karak and Aqaba, said Mr. Bilbeisi.

Cerebral palsy is spastic paralysis from brain damage before or at birth.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILMS

- German video film entitled "Stilles Land" at Goethe-Institut at 8:00 p.m. (98 minutes).
- Spanish film entitled "El Bosque Del Lobo" at Instituto Cervantes (Spanish Cultural Centre) at 4:30 p.m. (Tel. 610858).

EXHIBITIONS

- Oriental pieces exhibition at Gallery Mariam (Tel. 824425).
- Ceramics exhibition by Hameed Abdul Majeed at the

Royal Cultural Centre.

- Two exhibitions of abstract art by Ramzi Al Sayid and Mohammad Salim at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- Photography exhibition at the University of Jordan.
- Fourth Amman International Book Exhibition at the International Exhibition Centre, University Road (Tel. 650601).
- Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artist Wadhah Al Ward at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art, Wasfi Tal Street (Tel. 695291).
- Exhibition of paintings by Dia Azzawi at Ab'ad Art

Gallery (Tel. 862105).

- Exhibition of paintings by Kamal Boullata entitled "Duets, Quartets, and a Triangle" at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibdeh. Also showing "permanent exhibition of 56 Arab contemporary artists (Tel. 643251/2).
- Exhibition by artist Nadim Mubsin at the French Cultural Centre.
- "The Diness Exhibit" — beginnings of photography in Jerusalem and the Holy Land at the American Center exhibition hall, Abdoun.

Indian plague may be over in days — WHO

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — India has now established a well-organised campaign against a plague outbreak that terrified the world and the problem could be over in days, the World Health Organisation (WHO) said Monday.

"By Thursday or Friday we will know for sure if the outbreak has been contained or not," said WHO spokesman Jitendra Tuli, adding that most of the signs were good.

"Up to the last few days it was a fire-fighting operation. Now the Indian government has got down to a systematic campaign," he said.

"Most of the cases admitted in the last two days have proved to be viral fevers, which are common at this time of year, or something else," Mr. Tuli said. "There really has not been the expected spurt of plague cases."

Overnight the number of people entering hospital complaining of possible plague symptoms like high sneezing rose to 4,200 from 4,059.

The number of proved plague cases was not immediately available, but officials said about 90 per cent of the suspected cases tested in Delhi were negative.

"We are now on our way to recovery," said Health Secretary M.S. Dyal.

No confirmed victim of plague died over the past 24 hours and the nationwide

death toll was unchanged at 51, with all but two of the deaths in or near the western city of Surat where the outbreak erupted last month.

Just two people have died in Delhi and health officials said three more reported plague-related deaths in the capital appeared to be due to other factors.

"I don't think any more transmission of plague is taking place with most of the cases proving negative," Mr. Dyal said.

Reassured by the trend, the Delhi administration reversed a decision taken three days earlier and ordered all schools to reopen Tuesday. A decision on reopening cinemas, which were shut at the same time, would be taken later in the week.

In a further sign that Delhi was worrying much less, tens of thousands of people turned out Sunday to have their children immunised against poliomyelitis, health officials said.

"The interesting thing was that not very many of them were wearing masks," a health official said after the government advised people to cover their mouths in crowded places to prevent catching the plague, transmitted through coughing and sneezing.

The government sent Deputy Health Secretary Indrajit Choudhuri and National Institute of Communicable Diseases Director

K.K. Datta to Bahrain to spearhead a campaign to convince foreign nations to lift controls on trade and travel.

In a loosening of restrictions which Indian officials hoped would set a trend, Bahrain-based Gulf Air Sunday partially relaxed a ban on flights to and from India.

The major problem the government faced in containing the outbreak in a population of 900 million people was the panic-stricken stampede of 300,000 people from Surat.

Many of them went to Delhi and Bombay, the main entry points for tourists who spend more than \$1.0 billion a year in India, adding to the terror abroad where the medieval image of the now easily-cured disease prompted stringent actions.

A long list of foreign countries remained on guard against the spread of the disease.

The chief minister of southern Kerala state, K. Karunakaran, said the plague outbreak had badly damaged the state's tourism industry, with the number of visitors dropping more than half.

The primitive image of the plague came at a bad time for India, three years into radical economic reforms that woo foreign investment shunned for four decades.

Some Gulf countries have banned trade with India. Western tourists cancelled planned October holidays at the start of the country's high

season and some exporters could not pay suppliers because they were unable to find ships to take their goods.

One leading Indian businessman agreed with the government that countries abroad had overreacted.

"I guess the plague has been built up a little too much. It is affecting our image but it is a temporary phase," said Russi Mody, head of Mohar Trading Company.

Meanwhile, a couple and their seven-year-old daughter were murdered near Bombay over the weekend and their bodies thrown into a river by a villager who suspected they were suffering from plague, police said Monday.

Bashu Rathadiya Pawar, 50, his wife, Halibai, and their daughter, Mina Barkya, were killed with an iron rod late Saturday in the village of Nimbapur, in Thane district near Bombay, police said.

Their bodies were found by police Sunday in the Sonay River.

Police said the alleged murderer, Baju Dadu Sawari, 35, apparently believed that the family was suffering from plague since they had arrived in the village from Surat.

Mr. Sawari fled the village following the murders, police said.

Thanks to India's plague, the people of neighbouring Bangladesh will soon be able to win a colour TV from the

government at a bargain price: 10,000 dead rats.

This poor nation is always killing rats to protect food grains, but India's epidemic has prompted it to work harder this year because the plague can be spread by fleas from infected rats.

Beginning Oct. 20, the government is launching a month-long campaign to kill rodents and the more people involved the better.

"We have been killing at least 1 million rats every year since 1983. This year we plan to kill at least 2 million because of the plague epidemic in India," Giasuddin Milky, head of the government's rat killing campaign, said Monday.

Bangladesh issued a "high health alert" after the pneumonic plague started killing people in India on Sept. 20. State-owned Biman Airways has cancelled all flights to and from India.

Five foreign-flagged ships have been placed under quarantine off Pakistan's Karachi Port after arriving from India, news reports said Monday.

The ships will be inspected and fumigated and their crew will undergo thorough medical checkups, according to officials quoted by the Karachi newspaper Dawn.

The shops include the Singapore-flagged Neptune Iris, and Maltese-flagged vessel the M. V. Mannan. The report did not identify the



Masked residents of suburban Dhaka Monday burn rodents they killed overnight in a bid to prevent an outbreak of the plague, which has hit neighbouring India. Bangladesh has gone on plague alert (AFP photo)

other vessels.

Port officials said poison would be used to kill rats on all quarantined ships and laboratory tests would determine whether they carried plague germs.

The Nepalese authorities have closed off a border crossing with an Indian state and hospitalised three Nepalese who returned from India with suspected plague symptoms, officials said Monday.

Firemen in a stink to save pigs

LILLE, France (AFP) — Firemen who had to jump

into a pit of pig manure to try to save 89 pigs after the floor of their sty caved in complained Monday they still smelled of the stuff. Jean-Marc Danset, 34-year-old head of the Wervicq Fire Brigade near here and 14

other firemen spent several hours in a two metre (six foot) trench of liquid manure Sunday trying to rescue the animals. "I still stink even though I have taken several showers," Mr. Danset said Monday. He said his wife had washed his clothes several times but that they still smelled.

"Even our boots stink," Mr. Danset said. Pig slurry is the strongest-smelling of all manures. The Wervicq firemen managed to save 39 of the pigs, lifting them out one at a time. Forty-seven drowned in the manure and three had to be destroyed.

Whoopi Goldberg honeymooning after weekend wedding

LOS ANGELES (R) — Actress-comedienne Whoopi Goldberg was honeymooning at an undisclosed location Sunday, one day after marrying film industry union

organiser Lyle Trachtenberg, her publicist said. Goldberg, 38, was wed Saturday in a star-studded ceremony on the grounds of her home in Los Angeles. "They're not interested in releasing any information, but I can confirm they were married yesterday," said Goldberg's spokesman Brad Cafarelli.

Goldberg announced her engagement to Trachtenberg, 38, in April during an appearance on CNN. Videotape shot by news helicopters hovering over Goldberg's Pacific Palisades home showed a bride in a white gown and a groom in a tuxedo taking their vows on the back lawn. Director Steven Spielberg, who directed Goldberg in her Oscar-nominated performance in the 1985 film *The Colour Purple*, action-movie star Arnold Schwarzenegger and actor Matthew Modine were reported to be among the 350 invited guests. The wedding plans had been rumoured for the past week. Goldberg met Trachtenberg earlier this year when he visited the set of her hit comedy *Sister Act 2*. On CNN's *Larry King Live* last April 29, Whoopi said: "He's a normal guy. He's got a regular 9 to 5 job five days a week. I've never been out with somebody like that before." This is by no means Goldberg's first attempt at tying the knot. In 1986, she married cinematographer David Claessen. When she was 18, after dropping out of school in her native New York, she married her drug counsellor.

Both sides are in agreement on the wedding formalities. In August, Goldberg would reduce her nuclear power to make it use the decision about the wedding.

They said the wedding was a "celebration of life" and a "celebration of love".

But in a statement from Prologix, a Geneva, Switzerland, North Berne, Switzerland, nuclear power plant, it said the decision about the wedding was a "celebration of life" and a "celebration of love".

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Vietnam's Mekong flood toll nears 100

HANOI (AFP) — The worst flooding of the Mekong River in years has left 94 dead in Vietnam's southern delta provinces since September, according to an official toll published here Monday.

More than 30,000 families have been affected by the floods, with 2,000 of them facing starvation, reports here said. A total of 173,600

dwelling, 840 schools and 340 medical clinics have been inundated in the fertile region.

Property damage has been estimated at between \$50 million and \$100 million, according to local reports. The seasonal monsoon has also caused flooding of vast areas of the country's rice paddies.

The water level continued to rise in several areas of the delta over the weekend, particularly in Tien Giang province. The worst-hit province of An Giang, near the Cambodian border, has recorded property damage around \$15 million.

Flooding this year, caused by typhoons hitting central Vietnam, has exceeded all previous records. In 1991,

floods left people dead. Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet visited the stricken areas at the weekend and asked local authorities to assure food supplies for victims.

The government has released emergency loan funds worth \$15 million for flood victims to rebuild their lives with monthly interest rates set below 2.5 per cent.

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Man accused in Mexico murder tells of 'hit list'

MEXICO CITY (R) — The conspirators who ordered the slaying last week of a senior Mexican ruling party official had a hit list of "important people" to stop them from carrying out political reforms, one of the confessed accomplices told the attorney general's office.

The office said in a statement released Sunday that the accomplice also claimed the murder of Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) Secretary-General Francisco Ruiz Massieu was hatched by at least one political reaction-

ary working with a convicted criminal linked to one of Mexico's biggest drug cartels.

Ruiz Massieu, who was shot dead last Wednesday morning outside a fashionable Mexico City hotel, was the second high-level PRI official to be assassinated this year.

The party's first presidential candidate, Luis Donald Colosio, was gunned down as he campaigned in Tijuana in March.

At least five people, including gunman Daniel Aguil-

ar and Jorge Rodriguez, the brother of the man accused of organising the killing of Ruiz Massieu, have been arrested.

Jorge Rodriguez told authorities his brother had told him "there is a list of important people in Mexico who have to die because they support a series of reforms to modernise the country politically," the attorney general's office said.

It did not say who was on the list.

Jorge Rodriguez also said

his brother, Fernando Rodriguez, organised the plot on the orders of Deputy Manuel Munoz Rocha, a PRI legislator and head of the Waterworks Commission of the Chamber of Deputies.

He said his brother told him Mr. Munoz drafted the plan with an imprisoned former PRI official of the state of Guerrero who is related by marriage to one of the lieutenants of Juan Garcia Abrego, reported to be the head of the powerful Gulf Cartel, the attorney general's office said.

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Palace blasts book on Diana's love life

LONDON (Agencies) — A book claiming to be a true and detailed story of Princess Diana's love affair with her former riding instructor was dismissed by Buckingham Palace Monday as "grubby and worthless".

But the palace said it would take no legal action over the book, which says former cavalry officer James Hewitt, today 36, and Diana, 33, made love in Kensington Palace and at the princess' country home at Highgrove during an affair that lasted nearly five years.

"We are not going to waste any more time on this tawdry little book," said a spokesman. "The public can judge the motives of these people who are quick to peddle gossip of acquaintances with the royal family."

The book, *Princess in Love*, is written in romance novel style by free lance tabloid journalist Anna Pasternak, 27, grand-niece of Doctor Zhivago author Boris Pasternak. She said it was based on her personal conversations with Maj. Hewitt.

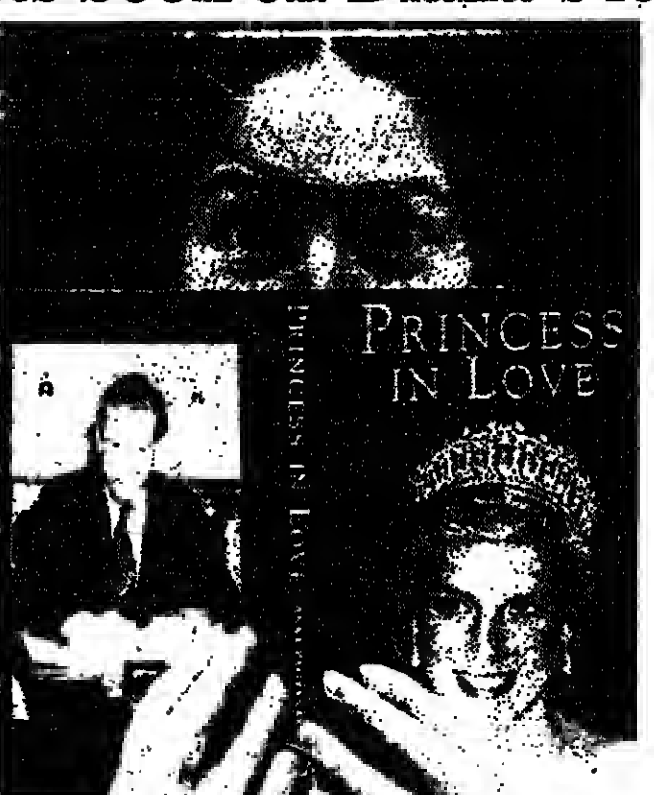
Princess Diana and her husband, Prince Charles, were formally separated in December 1992.

The book says Maj. Hewitt and Princess Diana first made love after an intimate, flirtatious dinner at Kensington Palace, but does not specify when that was.

"Diana stood up and without saying a word stretched out her hand and slowly led James to her bedroom..."

"Later, she lay in his arms and wept. She wept for all the times she had been left feeling deficient and alone... for all the times she had been left confused and dissatisfied, yearning for what then she did not know — while knowing that there was more — but now knew."

Maj. Hewitt, says the author, suspected why she was crying and asked no questions, but simply wrapped his "muscular arm... tightly around her," his "quiet, calm, undemanding support



A young Londoner takes the opportunity of an early purchase Monday of the controversial book *Princess in Love* which claims that Princess Diana had a three and half a year affair with Major James Hewitt, a former officer of the Life Guards (AFP photo)

enveloped her like a warm coat in winter."

"James," says Pasternak, "unlocked latent desires of new found intensity in Diana and, as they had so few full nights together, they spent a good proportion of those weekends languishing in each other's arms," the book says.

"They longed for Sunday mornings, those long peaceful hours when they lay peacefully together, their sheets threaded through the tangle of their bodies..."

The British press said Maj. Hewitt had been paid £3 million (\$4.5 million) by publisher Bloomsbury for his collaboration in the book, priced at £14.99 (\$22) and delivered in secret to booksellers early Monday.

The book went on sale in London Monday in a blaze of publicity.

"This book tells the story

of a love between a woman and a man, a love that was both passionate and full of hope and yet, ultimately, hopeless," says the cover of *Princess in Love*.

"Their love lasted for nearly five years this is their story." The book implies strongly that the princess, estranged from heir-to-the throne Prince Charles, was the lover of Major James Hewitt.

Princess Diana was reported by newspapers to be furious about the allegations and upset that Maj. Hewitt had betrayed their friendship. She was also reported to be considering legal action.

Journalists waiting to read the story heralded across every newspaper front page in Britain queued outside a shop in London's Charing Cross Road, centre of the

capital's retail book trade, early Monday.

The front cover carries a photograph of the princess wearing a pearl and diamond tiara. The back cover bears a picture of Major Hewitt, wearing a pin-striped suit and sitting at a desk.

"It is the first time ever that there has been such secrecy about the publication of a book," the bookshop's head of marketing, Corinne Gutch, said.

Ms. Gutch said she was first informed about the book Saturday but had no idea what it might be about until Sunday's newspapers broke the news of Maj. Hewitt's sensational claims.

Friends of Princess Diana have accused Maj. Hewitt of exaggerating the relationship since he hit hard times after leaving the army in March after a 17-year career.

It is not the first time the former officer has spoken to the press about his relationship with the 33-year-old princess but the latest allegations will undoubtedly cause more damage to the royal family.

Earlier this year Prince Charles admitted in a highly publicised television interview he had been unfaithful to her.

Britain's tabloid press has covered every detail of Princess Diana's life since she married Prince Charles in 1981.

The couple, who have two sons, separated in 1992 after months of media speculation about the state of their marriage.

Attorney Mark Stephens of the firm Stephens Innocent add another twist to the scandal, noting that the Treason Act of 1351, as amended in 1795 and 1814, stipulates that "a person is guilty of treason who violates the wife of the sovereign's eldest son and heir."

In theory, a conviction on treason charges in Britain carries a possible death sentence.

Tension remains high in Azerbaijan after police seizure of prosecutor

MOSCOW (R) — Azerbaijan's general prosecutor was released Monday by angry Interior Ministry forces who held him captive overnight, Interfax News Agency said.

But tension remained high in the capital Baku as government troops encircled the base to which the disgruntled Special Police Unit (OPON) members had withdrawn after releasing Prosecutor Ali Umarov, the agency said.

Interior Minister Ramil Usbov was quoted as saying government troops had exchanged fire with OPON members inside the base though there had been no casualties.

Russian news agencies reporting from the Azeri capital linked the incident at the prosecutor's office in central Baku to a festering row between Mr. Usbov and his deputy, Rovshan Javadov.

Mr. Javadov, according to these reports, had taken exception to the arrest of three OPON members on suspicion of involvement in the killing last Thursday of Deputy Parliamentary Chairman Afiyaddin Jalilov and President Haydar Aliyev's security chief, Shamsi Ragimov.

Mr. Javadov was quoted by ITAR-TASS news agency as saying his chief, Mr. Usbov, was trying to destabilise the situation and "create open confrontation in Azerbaijan."

The bizarre incident highlighted the volatility of the oil-rich Transcaucasian republic, which has been the scene of two power changes in two years.

Mr. Aliyev, a former Soviet politburo member, took power from the elected popular front leader Abulfaz Elchibey in June 1993. Last month, in a personal political triumph, he signed a \$7 billion international contract to

develop three major oil fields in the Caspian Sea.

But the political scene remains unpredictable with tension still high with neighbouring Armenia over the dispute surrounding the Nagorno-Karabakh enclave.

There have been at least two unexplained bomb attacks on the Baku Underground (subway) train network, causing many deaths, and shooting incidents remain commonplace.

Interfax News Agency said prosecutor Umarov had been beaten up before his release at 7 a.m. (0400 GMT).

Mr. Umarov was seized when a 100-strong unit of OPON forces seized control of the building where he worked.

Criminal proceedings had been opened against those responsible for holding him, Minister Usbov was quoted by Interfax as saying.

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Finnish investigators view video of wreck

JRKU, Finland (Agencies) — Investigators were due to set in this Finnish port today to study video footage of the wreck of the cargo ship Estonia in hopes of covering why the vessel took more than 900 people to their deaths.

Finnish investigators Karl Holm said the international mission set up to probe the tragedy would begin today at 1400 GMT and that their work session would last "many hours."

He said the commission, made up of experts from Finland, Sweden and Estonia, would not issue any statement until the meeting had ended, probably sometime today.

The meeting was to be held by Estonian Transport Minister Antti Meier, who has come under criticism from the Swedish press for allegedly rushing the enquiry.

Investigators will try to establish why the Estonia sank and sank during a storm in the Baltic Sea early Tuesday by studying 16 hours of video footage of the wreckage taken Sunday by a radio-controlled robot submarine.

The Finnish ship Halli arrived here early Monday with a film of the sunken ferry, which went down 100 metres off Turku with the loss of 910 lives out of the 49 on board.

The Estonia now lies on its side on the seabed at a depth of 80 metres.

Finland's two experts on the Halli have put together a short summary of footage, which they will show to their fellow commission members.

There will be shots from various places, we just wrote a narrative," one of them, who Karppinen said.

Mr. Karppinen said the was of "very high quality"



Two robot submarines are prepared for the mission on the deck of the Halli ferry off the coast of western Finland (AFP photo)

ty" and showed "propellers, radar, the bridge, the bow parts and the windows."

He did not specify whether the bow door, which is suspected to have been the cause of the accident, was missing or detached, as had been claimed by some survivors.

The two robots, which were each equipped with three cameras, each shot eight hours of film.

Both submarines had floodlights to penetrate the underwater gloom, but visibility was still only around three metres (10 feet) forcing the robots to work almost right up against the wreck.

They took around 15 minutes to reach the ferry before sending back video pictures screened directly aboard the Halli.

The Halli was originally to have continued its mission until 0200 GMT Monday but cut short its voyage and returned to port more than six hours ahead of schedule.

Mr. Karppinen explained that the ship had returned earlier because at the end of filming they were not getting any new information.

Swedish maritime officials have said they believe the Estonia sank after the protective cover over its bow loading doors was ripped open by heavy seas, flooding the ship's hold.

The head of the Swedish shipping company which owns Estline, operator of the ferry Estonia, said Monday Estline planned major new safety measures.

"We will take some drastic

measures which will publish at a press conference in Tallinn shortly," said Ronald Bergman, managing director of Nordstrom Thulin, AB.

Although the cause of the Estonia's sinking is not yet known, survivors' testimonies point to a structural failure allowing seawater to enter its front doors during a storm, and Mr. Bergman said he was convinced this must have been the case.

But he said the ship's managers were not to blame.

There must have been some basic weakness in the construction," he said in a telephone interview.

Mr. Bergman, who has given at a high safety profile in the international shipping industry by pioneering the use of double-skinned oil tankers in advance of industry regulations, said he was prepared to do the same for ferry operations.

Meanwhile, the head of the Finnish rescue operation said Monday a distress signal from the Baltic ferry Estonia, which sank with the loss of more than 900 lives, was not passed on to Swedish rescuers immediately.

"I have heard from Swedish information sources that it took 30 minutes before the distress signal from the Estonia was heard at the Finnish Sea Rescue Centre at Turku," he said.

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"We will take some drastic

Perry sees tougher NATO action on Bosnian Serbs

SPLIT, Croatia (Agencies) — U.S. Defence Secretary Perry said Monday he expected NATO to employ tougher air strikes against the Bosnian Serbs.

"I think we are going to see a judicious use of air power which I believe will be more robust, will be more effective," he told reporters after talks with United Nations chiefs in former Yugoslavia.

Mr. Perry was speaking after talks with the U.N. Special Representative Yasushi Akashi, the commander of U.N. troops in former Yugoslavia, General Bernard Lapresle, and the Commander of U.N. troops in Bosnia, Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose, and NATO Supreme Commander General George Joulwan.

Mr. Akashi said: "We have agreed on close cooperation to make sure that there will be judicious use of air power by NATO in support of UNPROFOR."

Asked if this meant there would be tougher air strikes against the Bosnian Serbs he replied: "I cannot comment on that."

The talks at a U.N. base in the Croatian port of Split were called to discuss a rift between NATO and the U.S., which favour tougher action to punish the Bosnian Serbs, and the U.N. which has preferred a more measured response.

On Monday, a squad of

French U.N. troops prevented some 300 Bosnian troops from advancing on Serb lines through a U.N. demilitarised zone on strategic heights around Sarajevo. U.N. spokesmen said Monday.

Meanwhile U.N. aid trucks began moving through Serb-held areas of Bosnia Monday after top-level protests to Serb military and political leaders secured free passage guarantees for convoys blocked at Serb checkpoints, after the Serbs had failed Sunday to honour their pledges.

Troops from the Muslim-dominated Bosnian army infiltrated the demilitarised zone on Mounts Igman and Bjelasnica several times over the weekend, sparking skirmishes with Bosnian Serb forces south of the demilitarised zone.

U.N. Sarajevo Commander General Herve Gorbiliard issued two sharply worded protests to Bosnian Vice President Ejup Ganic over the breaches and won a Bosnian commitment to pull out. U.N. Protection Force spokesman Lt.-Colonel Bernard Labarsouque said.

A patrol of around 10 French soldiers confronted a group of some 300 Bosnian troops from the 1st Mountain Brigade on Mount Bjelasnica around 1:00 p.m. (1200 GMT) Sunday and ordered them to leave the zone, said Col. Labarsouque.

The Bosnians refused and took shelter in nearby woods, fearing Serb snipers. Serb troops later shelled Bosnian positions inside the zone.

The incident marked the most serious violation of the demilitarised zone since its creation in August 1993, when Serb forces handed over the heights to French U.N. soldiers, Col. Labarsouque said.

"After the protest was made by General Gorbiliard, it was agreed that those soldiers would be removed from the demilitarised zone during the course of last night (Sunday)," said senior UNPROFOR spokesman Lt.-Colonel Tim Spicer.

Poor weather delayed their withdrawal until early Monday, he said.

U.N. reinforcements were sent to the area to help contain the Bosnians overnight, said Col. Labarsouque, adding that some 200 Bosnian soldiers were seen moving west out of the area early Monday.

Bosnian troops infiltrated the zone early Saturday under cover of fog to attack Serb lines in the Rakitnica area, suffering 13 wounded according to unconfirmed military observer reports. A platoon of 30 Bosnian troops was spotted late Saturday and ordered out of the area.

Igman and Bjelasnica dominate the southwestern approaches to Sarajevo, particularly a key Bosnian supply route into the besieged Bosnian capital, but Col. Spicer said the Bosnians' precise military objectives remained a mystery.

Meanwhile, British, Dutch and Danish U.N. troops rolled through Serb-held regions Monday, as the Serbs honoured a pledge to lift a convoy ban as agreed Saturday during a top-level meeting of U.N. and Serb leaders.

Transit clearances were granted late Sunday after four U.N. convoys had spent the day blocked at Serb checkpoints in breach of the accord. Three others were cancelled.

A British convoy carrying 1,000 litres of fuel, food rations and tractors was allowed through the Serb checkpoint outside Kiseljak, 35 kilometres (20 miles) east of Sarajevo, early Monday, followed by a Danish convoy bound for Sarajevo.

Two Dutch convoys were also allowed to leave the eastern Muslim enclave of Srebrenica, said UNPROFOR spokeswoman Claire Gifford.

Kris Janowski, spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, said two convoys totalling 17 trucks had left Belgrade for Gorazde but it remained unclear whether they had crossed into Bosnia. A third convoy was planned from Zagreb to the Serb-held town of Benja Luka in northern Bosnia, he said.

South Korea accuses South on nuclear issue

JEJU (R) — U.S. and Korean experts held three hours of talks today to clear barriers to a nuclear accord as Pyongyang accused South Korea for wrecking the negotiations.

Both sides declined comment on the talks, aimed at allaying an outline accord in August that reshaped North Korea's war power industry and its use for weapon promotion almost impossible.

They said the two delegations of technicians would meet again Tuesday — a day after chief negotiators for two countries are due to meet in a top-level bid for cement.

But in a statement issued in Pyongyang's mission in Jeju, the Communist state reiterated its refusal to accept a reactor South Korea under the and accused Seoul of

trying to wreck the Geneva discussions.

Monday's talks at the U.S. mission followed six days of negotiations at the end of September which failed to resolve key issues — including who would have the right to select the new reactors to be provided.

After last week's talks, U.S. delegation chief Robert Gallucci said there had been no substantial progress, but a senior North Korea official said his side had made "very constructive and interesting" proposals to clear the blockage.

Mr. Gallucci returned to Washington at the weekend for consultations. His North Korean counterpart, First Deputy Foreign Minister Kang Sok-Ju, remained in Geneva.

Under the August agreement, North Korea's graphite reactor programme which

can produce weapon-grade plutonium would be replaced with light-water technology.

This would ensure that the North, widely suspected of having a covert nuclear weapons programme, had very little possibility of building up atomic arms.

South Korea has insisted that it be the provider of a light-water reactor to be financed by an international consortium, and the United States says Seoul must play a central role in the operation.

The North says it should choose where the reactor comes from and indicated it favours Germany or Russia — both of whom would be members of the consortium that Mr. Gallucci says Washington is putting in place.

But the latest statement from Pyongyang on the issue accused what it called "traitor" Kim Young-Sam.

South Korea's president, of putting "artificial obstacles" in the way of the Geneva talks over the reactor issue.

In the statement, as issued in Geneva, the North quoted what it said was a cross-section of South Korean opinion denouncing the Seoul authorities' stand in bitter terms.

The report cited a South Korean "nuclear expert" as saying the reactor promoted by Seoul was simply "an assembly of parts from different countries... and like a time bomb of disaster which might cause an accident anytime."

It quoted a worker in the South's nuclear power programme as saying Seoul was aiming to "infiltrate into the North under the pretext of provision of light-water reactors and create a channel for destroying the Socialist system."

Clashes with leftists mar German Unity Day ceremonies

EMEN, Germany (AFP) — Clashes between police and extreme-left demonstrators opposed to celebration of the fourth anniversary of German reunification marred official ceremonies for the event here Monday.

Hundreds of demonstrators forced their way through barriers at the Bremen conference complex where ceremonies were being held and 170 were arrested, a police spokesman said.

Police officers were hit by stones and other objects, he said.

The demonstrators estimated at up to 1,000-strong drove back, and they left for the city centre where they smashed shop

windows, the spokesman said, leaving the ceremonies to go ahead unhindered.

Head of state Roman Herzog and Klaus Wedemeyer, president of the Bundestag (upper house of parliament), called on Germans from the eastern and western parts of the country to try to overcome their continuing differences.

The two spoke in the presence of Chancellor Helmut Kohl and premiers of the 16 regional German states after an earlier night of extremist violence from opponents of the ceremonies, most of them apparently anarchists who regularly demonstrate against nationalist events.

Strict security was in force to prevent disruption.

On Sunday night, groups of youths threw stones at police, set fire to cars and broke shop windows in Bremen, and 70 people were picked up for questioning after a discovery of molotov cocktails.

Eight police were hurt Sunday, one seriously, and two people were arrested.

Police were deployed in strength in Bremen at the weekend after an "Alliance Against Oct. 3" said it would ignore a ban on demonstration.

Bremen this year hosted the official anniversary ceremony marking the reunification

of Oct. 3, 1990.

Ultra-left extremist sympathisers of the terrorist Red Army Faction (RAF) attempted last week to blow up the Bremen offices of the Free Democrat Party led by Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel.

In his speech, Mr. Herzog called on Germans east and west to listen to and not to lecture each other.

"In the end, a single people — like the whole of Europe for that matter — cannot live with two different histories, but rather there must come about a single, honest history, cosmetically treated by no side," he said.

Slovak president set to accept coalition government

BRATISLAVA (AFP) — Slovak President Michal Kovac appeared set Monday to accept a coalition government following the surprise victory of nationalist leader Vladimir Meciar, whose party came out on top of Slovakia's legislative elections this weekend.

Our fellow citizens voiced their decision for a coalition government during these elections and expressed their will for all political parties to be in partnership," Mr. Kovac said Sunday in a television interview following the election results.

He said he would meet members of the coalition government today to discuss the outcome of the vote and be sworn in on Monday.

Although the president acknowledged the results of the vote, he avoided

party. Movement for a Democratic Slovakia (HZDS).

Mr. Meciar, who was removed as prime minister last March by parliament following an appeal by Mr. Kovac, has not made any declaration on the results of the poll or the makeup of the next government.

His party topped the election with some 35 per cent of the vote, to obtain 60 out of 150 seats in the new parliament, but fell short of the 76 required for a majority.

A spokesman for Mr. Meciar said he would not comment on the results until next week.

But despite his current silence, Mr. Meciar in the past has not hidden his dislike of Mr. Kovac and has vowed to oust him from office.

Various newspapers Monday wondered about the political scenarios possible for a new coalition government, one of which seemed plausible

well, finishing third with 10.18 per cent of votes.

Mr. Meciar's showing confounded opinion pollsters, the most optimistic of whom had only credited him with 27 per cent of voting intentions.

His score came within a couple of points of his performance in the 1992 elections which swept him to power and triggered the Slovakian separatist drive that culminated in the breakup of the old Czechoslovakia and formation of Slovakia on Jan. 1, 1993.

Political analysts said there was almost no chance Mr. Meciar's party would form a coalition with outgoing Premier Jozef Moravcik's Democratic Union, which finished fourth with 10.08 per cent of the vote, because the new, centrist party is headed by dissidents of the movement who were expelled early this year after they criticised Mr. Meciar's rough personal

measures which will publish at a press conference in Tallinn shortly," said Ronald Bergman, managing director of Nordstrom Thulin, AB.

Although the cause of the Estonia's sinking is not yet known, survivors' testimonies point to a structural failure allowing seawater to enter its front doors during a storm, and Mr. Bergman said he was convinced this must have been the case.

But he said the ship's managers were not to blame.

There must have been some basic weakness in the construction," he said in a telephone interview.

Mr. Bergman, who has given at a high safety profile in the international shipping industry by pioneering the use of double-skinned oil tankers in advance of industry regulations, said he was prepared to do the same for ferry operations.

Meanwhile, the head of the Finnish rescue operation said Monday a distress signal from the Baltic ferry Estonia, which sank with the loss of more than 900 lives, was not passed on to Swedish rescuers immediately.

"I have heard from Swedish information sources that it took 30 minutes before the distress signal from the Estonia was heard at the Finnish Sea Rescue Centre at Turku," he said.

Swedish maritime officials have said they believe the Estonia sank after the protective cover over its bow loading doors was ripped open by heavy seas, flooding the ship's hold.

The head of the Swedish shipping company which owns Estline, operator of the ferry Estonia, said Monday Estline planned major new safety measures.

"We will take some drastic

Russian hardliners mark anniversary of uprising

MOSCOW (Agencies) — About 100 Communist hardliners demonstrated Monday in front of the Russian Television Headquarters to commemorate the first anniversary of the failed uprising against Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

The protesters, who were outnumbered by police, brandished pictures of those killed by army troops who stormed the parliament building to end the Oct. 3, 1993 uprising and held Soviet and Imperial Russian flags.

"We are honouring the memory of those who fell to defend the Soviet constitution and the law, and we want to recall the responsibility of those behind last October's bloodbath," said Vladimir Lakeev, a member of the Russian Communist Party which organised the protest.

About 140 people were killed during the uprising which was sparked by Mr. Yeltsin's decision to dissolve parliament and schedule new elections.

Opposition members, however, say the death toll was closer to 1,800.

Meanwhile the man who led the bloody revolt to oust President Boris Yeltsin said on the eve of the anniversary of his defeat by Kremlin tankfire that he was in no hurry to make a new bid for power through the ballot

box.

Alexander Rutskoi, Mr. Yeltsin's vice-president until the uprising in which at least 140 died, said on television Sunday he wanted a full investigation into the events and would take his time to build a new movement to lead the country.

Only about 7,000 Communist and nationalist sympathisers marched through chilly Moscow streets to support Mr. Rutskoi and denounce Mr. Yeltsin as a murderer for crushing the revolt by Russia's conservative former parliament.

Independent investigation and not merely to punish someone," Mr. Rutskoi said.

"We need to repent what has happened to find out the truth... each side is guilty in its own way."

"But nowhere am I saying that there should be early elections. There won't be any. Let us take our time in setting up a considered movement with reasonable people capable of leading the country."

The former Soviet-era parliament proclaimed Mr. Rutskoi acting president after

September.

He barricaded himself in the assembly with hundreds of deputies and urged supporters to seize key Moscow buildings after a demonstration backing him routed police in the capital.

Mr. Yeltsin forced the rebels to surrender within days by sending tanks on Oct. 4 against the White House parliament — since turned into a government headquarters.

Later, deputies returned in elections to a new-style parliament voted in February to annest Mr. Rutskoi and



Japanese soldiers patrol their base camp at Goma's airport. Japanese troops flew into the troubled Zairean border town on the first mission under their own command since the end of World War II (AFP photo)

the Goma area and half a million more in north-west Tanzania in addition to two million people displaced inside Rwanda by three months of civil war and massacres.

The U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) said Sunday three days of violent incidents in the Ngara camps threatened the security of refugees and international workers and at least one refugee was killed.

Tanzanian police entered Benaco camp, which has 235,000 residents, Thursday and arrested a former Rwandan official who had failed to surrender his official car to Rwanda's new rulers.

Refugees surrounded the Tanzanian police station and were dispersed by police firing tear gas and bullets in the air.

Tens of thousands of refugees also descended on the joint UNICEF-UNHCR compound on the edge of Benaco but trouble was averted when the armed Rwandan was released.

A vehicle was attacked and overturned Friday in Benaco, UNICEF said. The driver escaped but two passengers were missing.

Aid officials say that although they regularly meet former local government officials of the ousted Rwandan government in the camps they believe the real leadership is hidden and operates underground.

Aid workers pull out of the camps before dark when refugees say the militiamen and soldiers are at their most active, intimidating those who want to return to Rwanda.

Reuters Monday that the situation in Rwandan refugee camps in Ngara district, Tanzania, remained very tense.

"We had to evacuate our staff from part of the camps," she said. She gave no details on the pullout but said UNHCR wanted security guarantees from camp leaders before resuming work.

Aid agencies are worried

Rwandan refugee camps in Zaire and Tanzania could become no-go areas for aid workers as they are increasingly controlled by militiamen and troops of the former Hutu-dominated government which was defeated in July by the mainly-Tutsi Rwanda Patriotic Front.

There are an estimated 800,000 Rwandan refugees in



A woman makes sure that all red flags are held up high as Communist supporters rally outside the Foreign Ministry in Moscow Sunday to commemorate last year's October revolt ended in the shelling of the parliament building (AFP photo)

Jordan Times

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The magic words that we never heard

NOTWITHSTANDING the declarations that we heard from U.S. President Bill Clinton and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres yesterday from the White House grounds after the trilateral meeting with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, we could find little indication that Israel is ready yet to agree to the key Jordanian demands for the return of the Kingdom's territory and its rightful share of water.

Of course, that is not to say that the White House meeting was not without its plus sides: Progress has been made in taking the first meaningful steps towards developing the Jordan Rift Valley and closely studying some of the multi-billion-dollar projects whose outputs would be shared by Israel, Jordan and Palestinians. As and when realised, these projects would help achieve the key objective of improving the lot of the people of the region. But then, some of the projects are too mammoth to be expected to materialise and produce fruits in the short term, or even the medium-term. Beyond everything else, we in Jordan were looking for the magic words from Mr. Peres, words that would explicitly commit Israel to honour Jordan's territorial integrity by recognising in public the validity of the Kingdom's demand for the return of its lands and to set in motion an irreversible process of a fair allocation of the water resources that are available today rather than discussing what could be made available tomorrow.

We were expecting to hear the Israeli foreign minister spell out in clear terms that his country, having agreed to accept Jordan's legitimate territorial and water claims, was setting a date for the physical process of withdrawal to begin.

Those words did not materialise, leaving us wondering over Israel's awareness of the Jordanian position; particularly that as the White House meeting was taking place, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin told his parliament that he was expecting to sign a "peace treaty" with Jordan before the end of this year.

It would seem that Israel, despite the 35 months that have passed since the launching of the peace process in Madrid and the several rounds of intense talks that Jordanian and Israeli negotiators held after the Washington Declaration in July, is having trouble coming to terms with the basic pillars of the Jordanian position — that any talk about a peace treaty could come only when the Kingdom's territorial and water rights are restored in full.

Would anyone blame us for starting to think that Israel, despite its smooth words and poetic phrases, has its eyes more focused elsewhere, perhaps on what it could pocket from the Casablanca economic summit rather than at the clearly spelt-out realistic means to achieve realistic peace with Jordan?

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE GULF Cooperation Council (GCC) countries have all the right to take whatever decisions they see fit, but the decision to end their boycott of firms dealing with Israel has nothing to do with the Middle East peace process, said a columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Monday. The decision came as a result of American pressure on the Arab states to serve the interests of the United States and its companies, said Tareq Masarweh. "Who knows what Washington would ask from the Arabs afterwards and what sort of pressure would be exercised on their governments to make them succumb to the desires of the Jewish state?" said the writer. The Arab boycott of Israel, he continued, is a question that should be handled by the Arab League as it is solely an Arab matter pertaining to the sovereignty and dignity. For years, the United States has been imposing boycott of goods against Cuba, Iraq and other states without being questioned by other nations about its own policies, he said. He said no country had ever told Washington that its boycott of Cuba was conflicting with the cause of world peace.

ANOTHER columnist in Al Ra'i daily criticised a government decision to cancel a general census which had been scheduled for next month in Jordan. The last census was held in 1979 and over the past year the Department of Statistics had been involved in preparations for the scheduled census, noted Fahed Al Fanek. The writer said that the "pretext" given for the cancellation was to preempt any assumption that the census was related one way or another to the peace process. However, it is not a source of shame for the government to hold the census in order to provide the decision-makers accurate information and the right figures to handle such serious questions like unemployment, housing and poverty, said the writer. If the census has to do with the number of refugees and displaced persons, the process is healthy and the results would back the government's endeavours to seek repatriation or compensation for the refugees, he added. He charged that the cancellation of the census was a service to Israel and a stab in the heart of the Palestine cause and detrimental to the refugees' interests.

Palestinians seize on election issue with Israel

By John West

REUTERS
OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — After months on the defensive, Palestinian leaders have latched onto general elections as an issue which can turn the tables on Israel and break Palestinian self-rule out of its narrow Gaza confines. Political analysts and activists say Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat hopes to hit several birds with one stone by focusing on the issue of elections for a Palestinian legislative council.

"All our major concerns are in this one issue. Elections mean Israeli redeployment in the West Bank, they mean the participation of Jerusalem, they mean the spread of real Palestinian jurisdiction," said Marwan Al Barghouti, a leading member of Mr. Arafat's Fatah faction.

For Israel, busy forging new ties in the Middle East on the strength of last year's peace deal with the PLO, the issue holds another danger — propaganda value for the PLO.

The issue of elections and Palestinian democracy is easy to understand and could engage Palestinian and even international opinion much more than the complex list of local grievances Palestinian leaders have so far been pushing in negotiations.

"We all believe in democracy the way we believe in apple pie. It is easy to batter Israel on this issue, to set November as an election date and then when it doesn't happen to say we (the Israelis) are obstructing democracy," said Joseph Alpher, director of Tel Aviv's Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies.

Mr. Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin agreed on Sunday to restart talks next week in Cairo on elections and Israeli withdrawal from population centres in the West Bank.

Mr. Rabin, uncharacteristically, was forced on the defensive. "We are for elections... (but) we have to know what will be elected, what will be the spheres of responsibility of the elected body," he told reporters after the meeting.

The main PLO faction Fatah immediately announced it was forming its own election committee in the West Bank, which Mr. Barghouti said would organise political rallies.

Palestinian elections are a key part of the self-rule agreement Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation signed last year. They were originally set for July but were delayed, like many other parts of the deal.

Mr. Arafat insists he wants elections in November but most independent analysts say that is unrealistic.

tic. There are no lists of voters and no electoral system has been agreed.

The declaration of principles specifies "direct, free, and general political elections will be held for the (Palestinian) council" but the two sides now dispute what that means.

Israel argues it refers to a cabinet-type institution of 25 members to govern the West Bank and Gaza for up to five years.

The Palestinians say it justifies their demand for elections to a whole legislature with some 100 seats, since the council should have legislative and executive powers.

Many analysts think the bigger issue is actually the Israeli army's reluctance to redeploy in the West Bank, a prerequisite for elections according to the agreement.

Unlike the narrow Gaza Strip, the 100,000 Israeli settlers in the West Bank cannot be neatly sealed off from the Arab population. Leaving cities such as Nablus, Ramallah and Hebron clearly in Palestinian hands would involve restricting settler movements and constitute a huge gain for the PLO.

The bigger, richer West Bank is far more of a prize than the seemingly resource-poor Gaza.

Mr. Arafat sold last year's deal to Palestinians as "Gaza-Jericho first". But those close to him say since self-rule started in May he has become afraid of being trapped in Gaza, forgotten by the world which feared and then praised him.

Khalil Al Shikaki, an independent academic, said he thought Mr. Arafat was becoming keener on the election issue as delays in aid flows from donors made it clear he could not rely on the development process alone to win Palestinian support.

He was also caught in a vicious circle on security with Israel, which wants him to crack down on Muslim militant attacks in Gaza before extending self-rule to the West Bank.

"It's like catch 22. He needs elections to take bold steps on security but Israel doesn't want to give him elections until he improves security," said Mr. Shikaki.

Palestinian opposition activists accuse Mr. Arafat, not known in the past for his commitment to democracy of playing with the election issue simply to score points.

But Mr. Shikaki said the PLO leader, despite reservations, may be coming round to the idea he has more to gain than to lose.

"Gaza-Jericho is not viable without elections. Mr. Arafat, even if sure of winning, may be unhappy about becoming accountable and facing independent-minded ministers. But he is determined to break out of Gaza and get the West Bank," he said.

Saudi cashflow worries America

RIYADH (AFP) — U.S. Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen begins a three-day visit to Saudi Arabia on Tuesday with the focus on the kingdom's cashflow problems. Western diplomats here said.

"Bentsen's visit will focus on the economic and financial difficulties of the two countries, including recent cashflow problems in the kingdom," one diplomat told AFP.

Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest producer and exporter of oil, has asked the United States for a breathing space in payments for two large contracts concluded earlier this year, the U.S. Treasury revealed last week.

Its difficulty arose from a shortage of liquid assets linked to the fall in oil prices. One of the contracts, for the sale of some 60 planes to the Saudi national airline Saudia at a price of \$6 billion, was clinched in February by U.S. manufacturers Boeing and McDonnell Douglas.

Saudi Arabia also signed a \$4-billion contract with the U.S. company ATT in August to extend and modernise its telecommunications network — the largest ever foreign contract in this field for a U.S. company.

Falling oil income has already forced Riyadh to sign an agreement in January with five large U.S. arms suppliers and the Pentagon to reschedule payments of \$9.2 billion.

The payments were for 72 F-15 fighter planes ordered from McDonnell Douglas at a price of \$9 billion, as well as for arms purchases planned for 1994 and 1995.

Total Saudi orders for American arms amount to \$30 billion from now until 2004.

Riyadh's treasury difficulties are worrying U.S. industrialists, some of whom were relying on Saudi orders to boost the recovery in their own country, diplomats said.

The Saudi daily Al Hayat has quoted Saudi economists as saying: "The kingdom has asked for a three-month delay before announcing the number and technical specifications of planes ordered by Saudia."

A London-based Saudi human rights group charged last week that the kingdom's oil revenue had fallen to below \$20 billion a year.

M. KAHIL



Elegant reformer tackles ugly world of Russian politics

By Vanora Bennett
REUTERS

MOSCOW — Irina Khakamada, pretty, witty and rich, seems out of place in the Russian parliament with its loud voices and lumpy bodies in ill-fitting crimples.

Running her fingers through elegantly cropped hair, Ms. Khakamada explained why she was a parliamentary deputy.

"I believe in economic liberalism, so I'm working towards a system where economic liberalism can flourish," she said.

Ms. Khakamada and her allies in the Liberal December 12 Union hope to create a legislative framework for a market economic system.

Parliamentary intrigue was new to her. "My first surprise was that — instead of this huge mechanism moving logically from the conception of a law towards finding a practical form for it — the whole process had a wild, elemental character," she said.

There's no doubt that Ms. Khakamada is a tough cookie.

A former economics teacher and the daughter of a Japanese Communist, Ms. Khakamada made herself one of the Soviet Union's first fortunes by setting up a computer software firm as soon as trade was legalised in 1988.

She was a founder member of the first stock exchange. She brought up two sons. She co-founded the Economic Freedom Party.

Her career is especially remarkable in Russia, where sexism is deeply entrenched. The few women who enter the male world of power and money have satellite roles.

Most female politicians stick to women's affairs. Typically, the women of Russia Movement, run by the conservative deputy Avetina Fedulova, focused its election campaign on pleas for more niceness and more attention to family matters.

Ms. Khakamada, whose leggy glamour has made her the darling of Russian fashion houses, prefers the tough stuff of economics.

She was shocked by her first experience of parliament, the Duma, during its first session earlier this year.

The heaving, swearing, undisciplined legislature, elected last December, is dominated by Communists, conservatives and an ultra-nationalist faction run by Maverick Vladimir Zhirinovskiy.

What Ms. Khakamada dismissively calls the "left camp" often votes on instinct, and their instincts tell them to vote against any measure that she and other reformers might champion.

"Often we simply can't go to the podium," said Ms. Khakamada, one of the most articulate liberal leaders. "They see us there and vote no, without even listening."

Among other problems were the Duma's two moves this year, which left

deputies waddering helplessly through unfamiliar buildings, at first without telephones, lifts or a library.

"Russian parliamentary politics is in its childhood. It's hard to get a quorum, for instance. Even if there is a quorum, there's not much chance of getting factions to vote logically."

"And, even if they do agree on how to vote, individual deputies are more than likely to go against the agreement if some nationalist gets up and makes a fiery speech. Those are the times when you just want to resign."

Ms. Khakamada says there is too much to play for to walk away from parliament when the going gets tough.

"I'm not going to leave politics until I lose everything," she said. "I had a career in business before, but it all stopped being interesting. I don't want to go back to that now."

President Boris Yeltsin took away much of the legislature's power before it even started work, fearing it would turn into a clone of its even more aggressive predecessor.

Fighting between Mr. Yeltsin and the old parliament spilled on to the streets of Moscow last autumn, and at least 147 people were killed in the fracas. In contrast, the Duma's first session did see a few laws passed, although with difficulty and only after long debate.

Ms. Khakamada hopes this autumn's session which begins on Oct. 5, will move quickly to passing serious laws regulating the chaotic economic markets of the post-Soviet era.

She is preparing a law on securities — a timely measure after the collapse of share prices in the MMM investment company. She also wants a new law to fight rampant corruption.

Ms. Khakamada said she believed nearly three post-Soviet years had already taught people to think and earn for themselves.

"Firms nowadays don't just look for state credits. They're learning a new way of thinking. People are learning how to earn money, even if they don't always do it in a civilised way yet."

When she's not at the Duma, Ms. Khakamada devotes her time to training women to get into politics and business from the Moscow Women's Foundation and its network of regional affiliates.

"Women have a great problem acquiring recognition by society," she said.

Her own family — the younger son, the mother and the recent husband who now live with her — are very supportive, she said.

But she does the shopping, the cooking and the cleaning. "Oh yes," she said with a laugh. "I iron my husband's shirts in the morning. He might hack me, but he doesn't do anything for himself at home. After all, this is Russia."

LETTERS

Unique traditions

The following letter was sent by the writer to the Ministry of Tourism of Jordan

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am taking this opportunity, during the short time available to me during this present transit stop-over at the Alia Hotel, to write to you and your fellow officers and staff in tourist services in the Kingdom, to express my absolute delight with what I encountered in your country during my week's stay earlier this month.

My first visit to Jordan was in 1974, when I remember being impressed with the great variety of monuments from all historical periods.

I had planned so many places to visit during my week's visit this time that I thought I would have little time to contact the ordinary people of Jordan or to have the opportunity to have a social exchange with them.

The total courtesy, warmth of welcome, enthusiasm to see and greet me that all Jordanians I came into contact with expressed meant that as well as being inspired by the superb monuments from your country's Greek, Roman, Byzantine Christian and Islamic past, I had ample opportunities to meet Jordanians from all walks and levels of life, Muslim and Christian alike, and to be impressed by and humbled by their genuine warmth of greeting, hospitality and interest. I can think of a member of times when as a fellow passenger in a mini bus going to an Omayyad fortress or a Biblical site would tap me on the shoulder and say, "Sir, welcome to Jordan, I have paid your bus fare."

The warm conversation that followed from this always added interest and enjoyment to the trip. Sometimes I insisted on repaying their courtesy with a cup of tea or a cold drink on reaching our destination, but very often, the Jordanians declined the offer and went on his/her way after a fond farewell. Believe me, Sir/Madam, after travelling in well over 80 countries of the world, I believe I can be sure in saying that Jordanian customs in this respect are unique.

I also had the opportunity to exchange views with people on a wide range of topics, including ones associated with an individual's strong, personal beliefs, and here — unlike so many other places in the world — including (sadly) the Middle East, I was able to share these conversations with Jordanians in a spirit of equality, openness and sincere respect and courtesy. It left me with the impression of a people who, as well as charity in their hearts, have a strong sense of maturity and understanding. I hope that such an understanding is reflected in the day-to-day relations between Jordanians and all political, social and religious views.

The tone of tourism in Jordan was set immediately upon arrival at the Queen Alia International Airport where everyone I had contact with went out of their way — but without artificiality or fussiness, to be helpful, practical and welcoming. And now, on leaving the Kingdom, I have found exactly the same charm and courtesy amongst all to staff of the Alia Hotel with whom I have come into contact.

Some times in the Middle East — and I can speak with the experience of a frequent visitor to these parts — the very first impressions one gains are of a people more interested in "scalping" the tourist and design only the advice that will be of benefit to their pocket. One is also made to feel a little isolated — even rejected — when it comes to the expression of ideas about matters that one guides one's life by. Not so here in Jordan. One is greeted as an honoured guest with views that one worth being listened to with respect, followed by an informed and challenging conversation.

I have spoken so much about the human face of tourism in your country that I have not yet mentioned the wonderful range of things for someone like myself, who has a passionate interest in history and archaeology, to see and experience. It is excellent to see the extensive work that is still continuing in revealing and cataloguing your country's rich Middle Eastern, Greco-Roman, Christian and Islamic periods. I look forward to returning on another occasion to see what more has been unearthed!

Jordan has much beautiful countryside, but it is the only fear I have for the future, I do hope that development will proceed, especially in the area of town and village expansion, which will not cover some of your loveliest countryside with buildings! I was amazed to see, on travelling from Amman to Salt, for example, how far and wide, the expansion of the "city" penetrates into and spoils the beautiful countryside. It seems, in so many places, that some people are "picturing the eyes" out of the best of the landscapes and your villages. I hope to return to find that not all of the northern and western regions of the country are "devoured" by the march of the expanding capital and towns.

Forgive me for ending on a negative note! I leave your country with wonderful memories in so many regards, and a strong desire to return to immerse myself again in what I definitely regard as the best of the Middle East.

Appreciation to the people of the Kingdom.

Lance Taylor,
1 Ford Avenue,
Oakleigh,
Victoria,
Australia, 3166.

Following is a remarks by President Clinton, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Mr. Peres, Israeli Foreign Minister, on Monday, October 3, 1994.

President Clinton, Crown Prince Hassan and Mr. Peres, Israeli Foreign Minister, met to launch the process. What a year makes. Negotiations have been going on for some time. The King, the Prime Minister, they signed the Declaration and to war between nations.

Since then, negotiations have been going on. It is important to have a peace treaty. The King and the Prime Minister, they signed the Declaration and to war between nations.

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Since then, negotiations have been going on. It is important to have a peace treaty. The King and the Prime Minister, they signed the Declaration and to war between nations.

Israel

The Jerusalem Post

THE... not... five... released...

Jordan, I

Israel... week... had begun... and the... second... after... But... officials... negotiations... rules... And... official... there was... agreement... The... and... mark... ending... between...

Since then... have met... Jordan... on the... to solve... the exact... der and... A White... said the... "going through... all every... what their... relationship... He said... ing in a... friendship... and were... Mr. Rabin... his parliament... Jordan may... ty before... "It is with... that I can... that the... accord with... Kingdom... soon... Mr. Rabin... still outstanding... clarification of... water and security... in the coming... representatives from... tries will meet... wards a peace trea... principles... signed by Israel... in September 1993... the way to negotia...

Jordan, Israel agree on commercial, economic projects

Following is a transcript of remarks by President Bill Clinton, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres at the White House on Monday.

President Clinton: Good morning. I'm happy to welcome back to the White House both Crown Prince Hassan and Foreign Minister Peres. We've had a productive session today. Jordan and Israel have taken further and very specific steps on the road to building a warm peace between their two nations.

Almost exactly a year ago, Crown Prince Hassan and Foreign Minister Peres and I met to launch this trilateral process. What a difference a year makes. Since then, intensive bilateral and trilateral negotiations culminated just two months ago in the historic meeting I hosted here between King Hussein and Prime Minister Rabin when they signed the Washington Declaration and put an end to war between their two nations.

Since then, peace treaty negotiations have made considerable progress, and steps to implement the warm peace all three of our nations want have already been taken. Jordan and Israel have already opened a border crossing for citizens of other nations at Aqaba and Eilat, and trilateral discussions on tourism, communications and economic development are proceeding. These discussions take place at a time when the economic and trade barriers of the past are dissolving before our eyes. It's heartening that the Gulf Cooperation Council states, led by Saudi Arabia, have now declared that they will no longer enforce the secondary and tertiary aspects of the economic boycott and will support a move in the Arab League to end the primary boycott of Israel. Promoting trade de-

velopment and cooperation rather than restraining and hindering normal economic relations should be the hallmark of the new Middle East, and Jordan and Israel are leading the way.

Today the Crown Prince and the foreign minister have reached agreement on a variety of issues that will help develop the Jordan Rift Valley, increase tourism, and assure future economic and social progress in the region. They have agreed to adopt basic principles to guide the future development of the Jordan Rift Valley, including projects dealing with the environment, water, energy and tourism; to open a new northern border crossing for third country nationals by October 15th; to establish a Red Sea marine peace park, with assistance from the United States government; to convene a conference on exploring constructing a canal between the Red Sea and the Dead Sea; to explore the establishment of a free trade zone in the Aqaba-Eilat area, with a view to making it an economic hub for the northern peninsula of the Red Sea; to conduct, together with the United States, feasibility studies to expand the availability of water, and to undertake joint financing of dams on the Yarmuk and Jordan Rivers to alleviate water shortages. That's quite a lot of work for them in this session. They are solid evidence that Jordan and Israel have not only ended their state of war but are following through on their commitment to cooperate with each other and negotiate as rapidly as possible a final peace treaty.

Our goal remains a comprehensive peace between Israel and all its Arab neighbors. We're hopeful that a breakthrough can be achieved in the negotiations underway between Israel and Syria and Israel and Lebanon. In their ongoing talks, Israel and Jordan have looked at the trilateral discus-

sions to help establish a comprehensive, lasting and warm peace. The steps we announce today are the building blocks of a moderate peace between these ancient lands. The United States is proud to be a partner and facilitator in this extraordinary endeavor.

Crown Prince Hassan and Prime Minister Peres — on behalf of the American people, and personally, let me say that I salute your vision, your courage and your persistence. This has been a relationship that has meant a great deal not only to me but to all of us in this country because of the incredible openness that you have displayed and the creativity you have brought to these negotiations. I am grateful that the United States has been able to play a role in this process, grateful for the opportunity that we have had to try to facilitate an extraordinary coming together between two extraordinary nations and very extraordinary leaders.

Crown Prince Hassan: Mr. President, Foreign Minister Peres, you'll forgive me by starting my statement by quoting from the mission of the ethics of the fathers: "The world is sustained by three things — by truth, by justice and by peace." I feel that in the spirit of our discussions that we have had truthful and frank and candid discussions both here today as on the occasion that we met last year to launch the trilateral committee.

I come, of course, from the meetings in Aqaba where those meetings were characterized by a truthful search for peace built on justice. And I would like to say that I come here in a mood of optimism that the work that we have commenced is a work that is going to live up to the hopes and aspirations of our peoples for a breakthrough for the future of both



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Sunday meets with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres (AFP photo)

our peoples and for the peoples of the region.

Our negotiators have made progress that would have amazed us a year ago. We have moved the talks to our region, we have agreed upon principles and modalities to resolve the outstanding issues, and today we are undertaking joint projects. We have implemented this vision in the confidence-building context of the most concrete kind, and at last, at long last, the leaders of our countries have met face to face and signed the Washington Declaration. As we move ever further in our voyage towards peace we witness the rebirth of the Middle East as a region, as a community, as a part of the international community of states.

Foreign Minister Peres, you have spoken eloquently of your vision for the future of our region; it is a vision that we share. Now we must

eliminate the barriers that create obstacles to its realization. We must work to resolve all outstanding bilateral issues, giving relations between our countries a solid, equitable and sustainable basis. Over the past two days we have discussed a range of ideas to that end, and I am confident that we will rise together to these challenges and that we will go on to make good the promise of peace.

Millions in the Middle East are watching us today. They know where true peace resides; it is ultimately not in the hands of governments but in the hearts of individuals who will participate in true peace. The time has come for the peoples of the Middle East to gain a stake in peace, to partake of its fruits without discrimination, without exclusion. In Casablanca at the end of this month, let us advance together towards

that goal.

Mr. President, the involvement of the United States gives us great hope. Your support, and that of American presidents throughout the years, is cherished in my country. It was President Woodrow Wilson who proclaimed the need for, and I quote, "open covenants of peace openly arrived at." It has been a long journey. We have yet to arrive at our destination, but with God's help the farthest shore is now in sight.

Thank you, gentlemen.

Foreign Minister Peres: Mr. President, Your Royal Highness, I would like to thank, first of all, the American people, its institution, its leader, President Bill Clinton, for taking one of the most complicated issues, a region of problems and wars, and make out of it a region of hope and promise. If we shall

succeed in our endeavours, as I do believe we shall, it may serve as a model to many other places.

The Middle East was a complex place for three basic reasons; the conflict was unprecedented, deep, full of emotion and full of military strength and confrontation. Secondly, the number of participants in this conflict was large and varied and different. And thirdly, it was basically a military and political conflict rather than an economic cooperation and social outlook.

May I say, Mr. President, that over the last year, everything has changed completely. A year ago we were standing here when the president, our Prime Minister Rabin and King Hussein and Chairman Arafat agreed to start to solve the very complicated issue with the Palestinians. Today, Mr. President, it is a reality. Later on, there was the meeting again here between the Jordanian leaders and the Israeli leaders and the president, in what then was the Washington Declaration. Today again is a vivid progress of cooperation for the benefit of all of our people. Then again, the Arab boycott that has accompanied the Arab political boycott is disappearing very much be-

cause of the work of Secretary Christopher, for whom I would like to express my thanks.

And in the meantime, some other events took place. We have agreed to open relations with Morocco, to open relations with Tunisia. It's not the end of the story or the end of the day, and as His Royal Highness has promised, we are going to meet in Casablanca for a most unusual attempt to combine private enterprise and governmental responsibility to promote the standard of living of all the people in the Middle East. In between our two countries, we are going to take parts of the desert and convert it into valleys of peace, of agriculture, of tourism.

A year ago, when we started, many people thought that we were looking for photo opportunities. Today we can say we have attained not a photo opportunity, but a deep and moving change in human experience in the best part of the 20th century.

I want to express my hope that the president and his team, the American Congress, the American people, will continue to do a job that really calls for a salute and appreciation.

Thank you very much.

Israel, PLO clash over pullout

(Continued from page 1)

But the most thorniest issue is redeployment of Israeli troops in the West Bank.

An Israeli embassy spokeswoman said the talks would focus on the nature of elections themselves, the date of poll, and how many posts in the proposed Palestinian council would be up for grabs.

"Both sides have different ideas on the elections. That is why we came to Cairo," she said.

The wrangling is expected to spell further delays for the elections, which PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat wants staged by Nov. 1.

Dr. Erakat said the PLO was aiming for elections before the end of the year. "The election will make or

break the interim agreement," he added.

But Mr. Jechurim said: "There are many problems to discuss. We hope the talks will go as quickly as possible. But we cannot set a date for the conclusion of an accord."

Both sides have blamed each other for the delays to the extension of Palestinian self-rule, which was launched in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho in May.

"Israel means to hold up the elections," Dr. Erakat told Egypt's Middle East News Agency as he went into the talks.

Israeli chief-of-staff Ehud Barak said last week the army would not pull out of any Palestinian towns until the security of Israeli settlers could be guaranteed.

'Israel-Jordan trade to be limited in short term'

The Jerusalem Post

THE volume of trade between Israel and Jordan will not be great in the coming five to 10 years, even under free trade conditions, according to a Bank of Israel study released yesterday.

The study entitled "The

Trade Potential between Israel, the Palestinians and Jordan," written by Arye Arnon and Jimmy Weinblatt of the central bank's research division, bases its findings on a simple comparison of the components that make up the countries' imports and exports.

An analysis of the trade components reveals that Jordanian fruit and vegetable exports and textile exports show the greatest potential. However, the study notes that these Jordanian exports will have to compete against imports of the same goods from Gaza and the West

Bank.

The study estimates that Israeli exports to Jordan will total about \$150 million annually in the short and medium-term. It identifies the export of scientific and quality control equipment as the areas of greatest potential.

Jordan, Israel agree on projects

(Continued from page 1)

Israeli reports said last week that the two countries had begun drafting a treaty, and the date for signing the accord could be announced after Monday's meeting.

But Israeli and Jordanian officials later lowered expectations, saying key disputes remained and a peace treaty was still months away.

And a Clinton administration official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said there was no word of an agreement yet.

The talks came after Jordan and Israel signed a landmark declaration on July 25 ending 46 years of hostilities between them.

Since then the two sides have met regularly in either Jordan or Israel to hammer out the details of peace treaty to solve such thorny issues as the exact outline of their border and water-sharing rights.

A White House official said the two sides had been "going through with great detail every single aspect of what their potential relationship is going to be."

He said they were "working in a spirit of extraordinary friendship and compromise" and were "moving ahead."

Mr. Rabin meanwhile told his parliament that Israel and Jordan may sign a peace treaty before the end of the year.

"It is with joy and pride that I can announce today that the signing of a peace accord with the Hashemite Kingdom is possible very soon, before the end of 1994," Mr. Rabin said.

Mr. Rabin said: "There are still outstanding problems, notably concerning the demarcation of the border and water and security issues, but in the coming days representatives from the two countries will meet to work towards a peace treaty."

He said the declaration of principles on autonomy, signed by Israel and the PLO in September 1993, "opened

Jordan."

"At our last meeting in Aqaba on Thursday, the King and Crown Prince Hassan told me clearly that they intend to reach quickly a peace accord with Israel, Mr. Rabin said.

Israeli and Jordanian negotiators are to resume bilateral talks alternating between the two countries on Oct. 10.

A senior U.S. official, who requested anonymity, said in Washington the two sides "certainly hope to achieve (a peace treaty) by the end of the year. That's their target."

"They're going through in great detail every single aspect of what their potential relationship is going to be," said the U.S. official, who asked not to be named.

Crown Prince Hassan and Mr. Peres met in New York on Sunday in preparation for Monday's talks in Washington.

An Israeli spokesman said Mr. Peres later told Israeli reporters he discussed with Prince Hassan the possibility of opening a free-trade-zone between the adjoining Eilat and Aqaba, as well as the free movement there of Israeli and Jordanian tourists.

Mr. Peres and Prince Hassan were also said to have discussed the possibility of opening an airport to serve both towns as well as a joint feasibility study to examine the idea of building a canal linking the Red Sea and the Dead Sea as a potential source of power and to serve other development projects.

The spokesman said another topic was the idea of an office to follow up whatever decisions are reached at a high level conference to be held in Casablanca, Morocco, on the regional economic development of the Middle East. Such a follow-up mechanism will be discussed by a joint Israeli-Jordanian committee at the Casablanca gathering, the spokesman

Palestinian prisoners appeal to Clinton

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

(AP) — Thousands of Palestinian prisoners published an unusual open letter to U.S. President Clinton on Monday, asking him to intercede with Israel to gain their release.

The letter published in the Al Nahar and Al Quds dailies said that Mr. Clinton should interfere in the case because he brought together Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat to sign the peace pact a year ago.

"But Israel is still insisting on keeping thousands of Palestinian prisoners in jail, that contradicts the spirit of the agreement," said the letter.

The letter admitted that some of the prisoners in jail had killed or wounded Israelis and many opposed the peace accord, but said the peace treaty should mean turning the page on the past.

"Don't ignore 6,000 Palestinian families who are waiting for joy to enter their homes and 18,000 Palestinian children waiting for a smile to be drawn on their lips," the letter said.

Rabin: Settlements no hurdle

(Continued from page 1)

Rabin's foreign policy speech. "There is no possibility of a compromise over the Golan because of the weakness of the Israeli government."

"The choice is between a total withdrawal or no withdrawal at all."

Five Labour deputies intend to bring a bill before parliament which would require a majority of 70 seats in the parliament or 65 per cent of the vote in a referendum on a peace accord with Syria, which has demanded the re-

turn of all of the Heights. Mr. Rabin had earlier threatened to turn the speech and Knesset opening into a vote of confidence for his government, but dropped the proposal.

Opinion polls show Israelis almost evenly split on whether Israel should withdraw from the Golan. Tens of thousands opposed to the move visited the Golan last month during a 19-day hunger strike by 13 residents to protest any proposed withdrawal.

Israeli telecards to have King, Rabin and Clinton

By Judy Siegel
The Jerusalem Post

TELEPHONE cards with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin shaking hands with Syrian President Hafez Assad and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat will eventually follow the one with Rabin, President Clinton and King Hussein, President Clinton and King Hussein — if Communication Minister Shulamit Aloni has her way.

Presenting Rabin yesterday with the first telecard depicting his handshakes with the Jordanian monarch in Washington, Aloni said she saw it as the first of a series that will include Rabin's future handshakes with leaders of all the Arab countries and his first encounter last year with Arafat.

The first of 400,000 of the

50-call unit telecards will go on sale for NIS 22 at Bezeq business offices, post offices and automatic dispensing machines today. The telecard will also be sent to Clinton and King Hussein.

Bezeq Director-General Yitzhak Kaul said the telecard symbolised the unprecedented jump forward in communications between Israel and Jordan. Since direct dialing between the two countries was instituted a few months ago, the number of minutes of calls is equivalent to that between Israel and France.

Kaul added that in 1995, Bezeq, will complete its "optical information highway" from Menulla to Eilat. A similar one can be installed in all Arab countries to link the Middle East with the world information network, he said.

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World Bank urges reform to avert old-age crisis

MADRID (R) — The World Bank Monday called for cuts in payroll taxes and retirement benefits for the rich and middle class and compulsory savings in private pension funds.

Nations must make fundamental changes in the way they pay pensions to avert a worldwide crisis threatening the incomes of an increasingly greying population, it said in a study.

"The world today faces a looming old-age crisis," said the bank's chief economist Michael Bruno.

"Rising life expectancy and declining fertility — welcome indications that development is working — also mean that the proportion of old people in the general population is growing very fast, particularly in many developing countries," he pointed out.

The book-length report, titled "Averting the Old Age Crisis," said the challenge was to introduce reforms that were good for a country as a whole in the long run, even if this involved taking expected benefits away from some

groups in the short run.

With rising incomes and medical advances, families now have fewer children and people live longer, meaning a smaller working-age population had to support more and more old people, it said.

Existing systems were headed towards collapse all over the world including industrialised nations with public pension plans and developing countries depending on extended family support.

Public pension funds used in most developed countries were designed to avoid old-age poverty, but often had the lopsided effect of making poor, young families pay to support wealthier, older people without guarantees that they would get benefits.

The bank said industrialised countries must shift the bulk of responsibility to individuals but keep a small public pool of funds for the chronically poor. The size of the payroll tax needed to support the publicly managed system should be kept relatively small to avoid inhibiting economic growth.

The redesigned systems would fuel economies by boosting savings and private-sector financial development.

The bank warned that changes had to be implemented quickly in Latin America, eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, where pension systems were in serious trouble.

But in Africa and parts of Asia, where the number of old people had been relatively low, the report said reform, while needed, must go slowly to avoid repeating costly mistakes.

It concluded that each country, whether developing or industrialised, must use a combination of sources: Public, mandatory savings and voluntary contributions.

"Because some of the risks of the next 60 years are not even dreamed of today, broad diversification across differing financial and managerial sources is the best way to insure in an uncertain world," it said.

Wealthy nations to address global savings shortage

MADRID (AFP) — The world's leading industrial nations have agreed to study the global savings shortage and how to meet growing investment demands, making the issue a major structural priority after unemployment.

The decision to adopt the British proposal came at a meeting here Sunday of finance ministers and central bank governors of the Group of Ten, which is actually 11 countries — the United States, Japan, Germany, France, Britain, Italy, Canada, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Sweden and Belgium.

Members of the group, chaired by Italian Treasury Minister Lamherto Dini, noted "concerns about the level of real interest rates and world savings and investment," a statement said.

"They agreed to examine the prospects for world savings and investment, and the implications for interest rates and economic policy," it added.

British Chancellor of the Exchequer Kenneth Clarke welcomed the move in a subsequent speech to the Interim Committee of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which began its annual meeting in Madrid the same day.

"Savings and investment are running at lower levels than 15-20 years ago," he said, noting that they accounted for about 25 per cent of world gross domestic product (GDP) in the sixties and early seventies.

"Today the figure is perhaps two to four percentage points of GDP lower. At the same time, real interest rates have risen over the past 20 years. So we are faced with a relatively low level of world savings, and a historically high level of interest rates," he said.

Moreover, this is happening at a time when "investment needs around the world are as great as they have

been," he said, referring to "massive investment opportunities" in Asia and Latin America and similar prospects in eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union and southern Africa.

British officials said an interim report on the savings shortfall was likely to be presented to the group's next meeting in Washington in April.

The decision to adopt the British proposal came a day after the Group of Seven (excluding the Netherlands, Switzerland, Sweden and Belgium) said it was "concerned" about the recent rise in long-term interest rates.

"The rise reflects, to a large extent, an increasing gap between global savings and investment as a result of the growing demand for investment capital in many parts of the world," the Group of Seven said.

World bond market turbulence since February was the

subject of a detailed study in this year's international capital markets report by the IMF.

The report, released last week, concluded that largely unregulated hedge funds — comprising derivatives and other financial instruments, capitalised at up to \$100 billion posed problems for global bond markets.

German Finance Minister Theo Waigel underscored these problems in his address to the IMF Interim Committee Sunday.

"However sound the economic policy approach, the globalisation of international financial markets makes it increasingly difficult to decouple from international interest rate trends," he said.

Mr. Clarke said the drain on global savings was partly the fault of governments themselves, calling for a consensus on future action to be taken. "Part of that action must certainly be to continue to reduce the demand that

governments around the world are placing on the market, by reducing the size of our fiscal deficits," he said.

Bank of Japan Governor Yasushi Mieno, whose country has one of the highest levels of savings in the world, agreed. "Especially important in the medium-term context is the need for the industrial countries to reduce their sharply increased fiscal deficits," he told the Interim Committee.

Lloyd Bentsen, treasury secretary of the United States, whose country has one of the lowest savings rates and is the biggest single drain on world savings, told the committee that Washington's five-year \$500 billion deficit reduction plan was ahead of schedule.

He noted that the IMF had estimated that the United States will have the lowest ratio of government budget deficit to GDP among the major industrial countries.

Rich-poor spat, complaints spoil IMF's birthday party

MADRID (R) — A stalemate between rich and poor nations over the creation of new global assets that prompted criticism of the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) French boss cast a pall over the IMF's 50th anniversary meeting Monday.

Some economic policymakers in Madrid said the fund and its managing director, Michel Camdessus, had been "hit by a bitter late-night deadlock" sparked by an IMF proposal to issue \$50 billion of its artificial currency to help needy nations.

"He put himself in a difficult spot. The fund has been damaged," said one senior official from the Group of Seven (G-7) wealthiest countries, which had offered a take-it-or-leave-it \$24 billion package that developing states' representatives rejected as inadequate.

The IMF's mid-life crisis overshadowed Monday's business at the fund's annual conference in Madrid. During a meeting of the Development Committee, Britain and France argued yet again for more generous debt relief for the world's poorest nations.

U.S. officials said Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen was disappointed Mr. Camdessus had been unable or unwilling to persuade developing countries to account for the G-7 plan. Mr. Bentsen had made a personal last-minute appeal to Mr. Camdessus to persuade him the G-7 offer was final.

Others agreed there was a serious North-South rift on the question. Postponement of a decision on an IMF payout was a rare victory for the Third World over the fund's G-7 paymasters.

But they played down the personal aspects of the dispute.

"These are all small matters," said Indian Finance Minister Manmohan Singh, one of the leading Third World voices on the Interim Committee.

And an IMF official said Mr. Camdessus' job was not in danger.

His second five-year term does not end until January 1997 and there is no appetite for an unprecedented effort to remove him. In any case, France would fight to defend the former governor of its central bank, G-7 officials said.

German Bundesbank President Hans Tietmeyer, who fiercely opposed Mr. Camdessus' plan on the basis it would stoke global inflation, said: "It would be false to conclude from this now that there is a situation of lack of confidence in the managing director. No, on the contrary. He did his job."

One British official said: "Camdessus has done a good job running the IMF... we took different positions last night but we do not see that as calling into question Camdessus' position."

French officials defended the former Bank of France

governor against criticism that he had stuck too closely to his and the developing countries' original position, without arbitrating.

"Camdessus was a go-between. He did persuade the developing countries to modify their position and told the G-7 what the situation was. It wasn't enough yesterday. But we can still reach an agreement," one French official said.

French Economy Minister Edmond Alphandery, who fought a lone battle with his G-7 partners — Britain, Canada, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States — to push Mr. Camdessus' proposal, stressed the need for consensus in the IMF's policy-making Interim Committee.

Mr. Alphandery said: "These decisions need 85 per cent of the votes... there's no point in taking extreme positions."

He was confident a deal would be reached, quite possibly before April when the next Interim Committee meeting is due.

Mr. Camdessus himself said at a midnight news conference: "I did my duty in launching my proposal, others launched their proposals. It's my duty to speak my mind."

"I like very much what I do. I enjoy very warm support from the membership and I will continue trying to do my job," he affirmed.

Syria expects record number of visitors this year

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria expects to receive a record two million visitors this year, about five per cent more than in 1993, Tourism Minister Amin Abu Shamah said in an interview.

The numbers have been growing at between seven and 10 per cent since the Gulf war in 1991 and the Syrian tourist industry would probably benefit from a comprehensive Middle East peace agreement, he told Reuters Sunday night.

The minister said it was too early to estimate earnings

from tourism this year but in 1993 it brought in between \$750 million and \$800 million, compared with \$630 million in 1992.

That puts tourism up with oil and textile exports as one of the country's three main sources of foreign currency.

Mr. Abu Shamah denied that Syria was already reaping benefits from the atmosphere generated by the peace process or that it had attracted tourists who might have gone to Egypt were it not for Egypt's security problems.

"The main reason (for the increase) is the security and stability Syria enjoys... it's well known that it's the safest country for tourists," he said.

Syria differed from Egypt in that two thirds of its visitors come from Arab countries, especially neighbouring states, whereas Egypt depends largely on Westerners, he added.

But archaeological tourism, in which European visitors predominate, is the fastest growing sector in Syria, he said.

Pressed on when he

thought Israeli tourists might be able to visit Syria, Mr. Abu Shamah said a psychological barrier remained.

"You can't change concepts overnight. Every family in Syria has someone who died in war. It will take a certain amount of time, if peace comes about," he said.

"When there's a comprehensive and just peace, and that requires full withdrawal from the occupied land in the Golan and South Lebanon, that will mean the end of the state of war, which affects the tourist industry negatively," he said.

"The tourist industry flourishes through security,

stability and peace. Then it can bring in more revenue," he added.

The minister said the government, in response to complaints that Syria did not have enough medium hotels, had started to shift away from luxury tourism by giving the private sector tax and customs incentives to invest in smaller projects.

One of the biggest tourist projects on the drawing boards is a 15,000-bed complex at Shati Al Snoubar on the Mediterranean coast, expected to cost \$400 million, he said. The government has started building the infrastructure.

Fuel, food prices soar in Nigeria

LAGOS (R) — Food, fuel and transport prices rose sharply in Nigeria over the weekend, stoking inflation already running at more than an annual 100 per cent.

The increases took most people by surprise as, breaking with past practice, the military government gave no warning or the customary explanations that it had to slash subsidies on fuel.

Past increases have triggered protests and strikes in Nigeria which is a major oil producer and posts domestic prices that are among the world's lowest.

By Monday there was still no official announcement that prices had been raised.

A spokeswoman for state-owned Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation told Reuters: "We have no official statement on the matter."

"She declined to comment any further, saying that all senior officials were not available.

The price of a litre of petrol rocketed more than four times to 15 naira (\$0.68) from 3.25 naira (\$0.15) on Sunday.

The price of diesel rose to 14 naira from 3.0 naira and kerosene, the poor man's

fuel, went up to 12 naira from 2.75.

Analysts said the government might be keeping silent because it was testing people's reaction, having taken over the leadership of the unions that were most likely to have fought the rise.

Military ruler Sani Abacha sacked leaders of the oil workers unions and the labour federation in August to end two months of strikes

and protests demanding the restoration of democracy.

General Abacha also appears to have broken the political opposition, many of whose leaders are in detention.

"The last time fuel prices were increased the government was brought down," said a Western diplomat. "It is by no means certain that the same will happen now," he added.

Amazing

DAJANI'S
Gold & Gems Jewellers.
Amra Hotel, 6th Circle, Amman.
SAPPHIRE: Aids in gaining wisdom and enhances communications; the white helps in manifesting abundance on a physical level; the yellow stimulates creativity.

THE BETTER HALF



By Glasbergen

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

HAGUL
TOOFA
RICCAT
HAPNOR

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: A O O F

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: NEWLY SMOKY CHAVAT GLUTAR
Answer: What they became when the insects attacked — THE SWAT TEAM

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY OCTOBER 4, 1994
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Flighter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The Libra New Moon offers limited opportunities and possibilities to handle serious responsibilities even though you feel that you would rather be enjoying yourself in recreation with close friends.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Discuss your ambitions with higher-ups and gain the support they can give you and also cooperate with their aims toward success.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You have new aims in mind which need more study before you can reach them successfully. Garner all necessary data for a new endeavour.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Keep any promises you have made meticulously and avoid trouble later. Get routine tasks completed in an efficient manner.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Show some practical thought for partners who are loyal and you appreciate being allied with them for some important assignments.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Get right down to the tasks ahead of you and don't quibble or make changes. Persevere to gain the respect of fellow associates.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Your talents should be put on a more practical basis so that there can be a market for them. Be careful driving to prevent problems.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Be more practical and please your kin. If you do any entertaining, make sure to be with people who can be helpful to you in the future.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You have a penchant for neatness and order and this is a fine day to exercise it. State your aims to good friends who will appreciate them.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) This is a good day to add value to your property by some repairs and slight modern changes. Get your accounts in order.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Get into personal affairs which can bring you more of the things you want. Do something to impress your friends and loved ones.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Make a plan along more worldly and practical lines and you can have the added security you desire. Show devotion to your mate.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Show more friendship for dynamic friends and they can be of assistance to you. Take part in that group affairs which you are interested in.

Birthstone of October: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli

THE Daily Crossword

by Frank R. Jackson

ACROSS
1 Party crash
5 Speak out
10 Light ray
14 Child and fever
15 Or
18 Almond
19 Old sad song
20 Take student
21 "Gone with the..."
22 Narrow
23 Force downward
25 "..." of the
27 Prudic
28 Wasp
31 Catch-all sort of
34 Like cloth
37 Electrical term
39 Gordon Parks
41 Side or right
42 Old saw
43 Diving duck
44 Undiscovered
46 Exclamation
48 Baiting term
49 USA word
53 King's term
56 Ringer
57 Negative prefix
58 Medical tests
62 "I smell..."
63 Misspell
64 Salary supplier
65 Edges
66 Dole some
67 Unhappy
68 Exclamation
69 Baiting term
70 USA word
73 King's term
76 Ringer
77 Negative prefix
78 Medical tests
82 "I smell..."
83 Misspell
84 Salary supplier
85 Edges
86 Dole some
87 Unhappy
88 Exclamation
89 Baiting term
90 USA word
93 King's term
96 Ringer
97 Negative prefix
98 Medical tests
102 "I smell..."
103 Misspell
104 Salary supplier
105 Edges
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Financial Markets

In co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Date: 3/10/94	Tokyo Close Date: 3/10/94
Sterling Pound	1.5800	1.5770
Deutsche Mark	1.5501	1.5551
Swiss Franc	1.2859	1.2950
French Franc	5.2925	5.3110**
Japanese Yen	99.1e	99.58
European Currency Unit	1.2323	1.2290**

* 100 Yen per 1000
** European Currency Unit

European Currency Unit

Date: 3/10/1994

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTH	6 MTH	12 MTH
U.S. Dollar	4.75	5.31	5.50	5.75
Sterling Pound	5.18	5.68	6.25	7.06
Deutsche Mark	4.68	4.87	5.00	5.43
Swiss Franc	3.56	3.93	4.12	4.50
French Franc	5.25	5.40	5.08	6.09
Japanese Yen	2.00	2.12	2.25	2.50
European Currency Unit	5.43	5.81	6.00	6.81

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Date: 3/10/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6980	0.7000
Sterling Pound	1.0992	1.1047
Deutsche Mark	0.4482	0.4508
Swiss Franc	0.5394	0.5421
French Franc	0.1315	0.1322
Japanese Yen	0.0099	0.0104
Dutch Guilder	0.4005	0.4055
Swedish Krona	*****	*****
Italian Lira	0.0447	0.0449
Belgian Franc	*****	*****

For 100

Date: 3/10/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
Israeli Dinar	1.8350	1.8550
Lebanese Lira	0.0410	0.0421
Saudi Riyal	0.1857	0.1875
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3150	2.3490
Qatari Riyal	0.1905	0.1926
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7930	1.8190
UAE Dirham	0.1895	0.1905
Greek Drachma	0.2785	0.3150
Cypriot Pound	1.5960	1.5950

For 100

Plague seen denting Indian exports, tourism

BOMBAY (R) — India's killer plague is likely to dent exports and tourism while dealing a psychological blow to the country's improved international standing following economic reforms, analysts said Monday.

Commodity exports to Gulf countries have been put on hold, while India's lucrative diamond industry, centred on the western city of Surat, where the pneumonic plague erupted, could take weeks to recover, businessmen say.

Worst hit will be the country's tourism industry, which was aiming for a record 2.2 million visitors this year.

With almost 500 cases of suspected plague reported in the Indian capital New Delhi, foreign tour groups have begun cancelling trips and hotel occupancy has fallen. Several foreign airlines have halted flights to India.

The industry is likely to be haunted for months by TV images of residents wearing masks to prevent breathing in plague germs.

"We have been inundated with cancellations for October, so we are now trying to salvage November," said Subhash Goyal, president of the Indian association of Tour Operators.

October is the start of the winter tourism season in India, and some tourism industry officials believe the country could see as many as 60,000 potential visitors cancelling trips in the remainder of 1994.

"The impact is not being realised much now as normally our hotels are booked in advance. But the last-minute cancellations will have an effect later in our hotel business," said Feroze Vevaina, deputy chairman of ITC Ltd., the cigarette and hotels giant of India. ITC, in a tie-up with the Sheraton Group, runs four luxury hotels in the country.

The Indian government is emphasising that the plague, which broke out on Sept. 22, is under control and that it can be treated with antibiotics.

But businessmen are starting to realise the psychological impact could linger, despite India's improved investment climate following three years of economic reform.

Textile exporters said that several buyers from South Korea and Europe had either cancelled or cut short their visits. October and November is the time when many orders for next summer are finalised.

"I've got an export consignment of yarn ready for the Gulf, but can't get a ship to go there," said Sushil Gupta, a textile exporter. "So I can't pay the Indian manufacturer."

Indian exports which posted 20 per cent growth last year have already begun slowing, and the plague can only reinforce the downward trend, analysts said.

India's cumulative trade deficit for the April-August period of the current 1994/95 (April-March) fiscal year was \$798.53 million, up from \$254.61 million in the same period last year, according to the commerce ministry.

Some European buyers of Indian peanuts have asked Indian exporters to postpone supplies. India exports over 30,000 tonnes of peanuts to Europe every year. Exports to the Middle East of fruit, vegetables and meat have been halted.

More worrying, the plague — if it lingers — could affect India's shipping industry, with nations across the world insisting on fumigation of Indian ships before they can enter their ports, industry officials say.

"What is a matter of concern is that the plague problem will affect the country's crude oil imports," Indian National Shipowners' Association President R.L. Pai told reporters.

Some Arab countries have shut their ports to ships to and from India.

The Indian government has launched a concerted campaign to reassure the world that the plague is under control, and to persuade airlines to resume flights. Officials say it will have no long-term impact on economic growth.

"I guess the plague has been built up a little too much. It is affecting our image but it is a temporary phase," said Russi Mody, a leading businessman who is chairman of Mobar Trading Co.

"I was in Europe last week and people are worried, but are confident of India's fighting instincts. People believe that India will survive. I really don't believe it should affect India in the long run," Mr. Mody said.

Lebanon unveils 10-year reconstruction plan

BEIRUT (R) — Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri

unveiled details of his \$11 billion plan to turn Lebanon into a competitive, modern country in the next 10 years and sent it to parliament for approval.

Mr. Hariri's "plan 2000", comprising 18 "programme laws" for different areas of postwar reconstruction, was 18 months in preparation by the government and its Council for Development and Re-

construction. The 18 laws were included as annexes in the 1995 budget bill which parliament must approve by the end of January.

Mr. Hariri told reporters after a Sunday night cabinet meeting which gave the plan final government approval that he hoped it would attract a full and fair debate in the country on national priorities.

"This plan is not the government's property. The entire Lebanese people must take responsibility for it," he said.

The 18.9 trillion Lebanese liras (\$11.38 billion) plan is intended to go beyond repairing the damage Lebanon suffered in the 1975-90 civil war and to build facilities and services compatible with a vigorous, competitive upper middle income country.

The main items are development of education, repair and construction of educational institutions and hospitals, water projects, irrigation and road-building.

Projects also include development of public transport, ports, oil refineries, environmental projects, solid waste disposal and construction of public buildings.

Mr. Hariri, a 50-year-old construction billionaire who made his fortune in Saudi Arabia, said nearly 30 per cent of the plan was dedicated to social needs — housing, education, health and social welfare.

The plan was first presented to the cabinet in March 1993, six months after Mr. Hariri took office with a mandate to rebuild Lebanon, but has since undergone many changes.

Spending on the plan in 1995 is included in the 5.5 trillion pounds (\$3.3 billion) 1995 budget bill.

Mr. Hariri gave no further details on financing, but Beirut newspapers said about 15 per cent of the cost will be raised on the Eurobond market and the rest through ordinary borrowing, domestic revenues and returns from productive projects.

Lebanon scored a major success last week with its first Eurobond issue. It attracted overwhelming market interest and was floated at \$400 million after being set at a minimum \$150 million.

The \$400 million is earmarked for construction of a Beirut ring road, infrastructure improvements in poor Beirut suburbs, and rebuilding shattered villages so that civil war refugees can return home.

Meanwhile, seventy-four international companies have applied to pre-qualify for a \$50 million contract to restore Casino du Liban, the Middle East's foremost gambling and entertainment centre, the company said Monday.

The Compagnie du Casino du Liban, licensed by the government to reopen the complex and operate it for 30 years, gave firms until Sept. 28 to submit pre-qualification bids.

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait has loosened curbs on property ownership for nationals of its Arab Gulf allies, an official said Monday.

The emirate has doubled the housing space that nationals of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states may own and for the first time extended their ownership rights to commercial property, the justice ministry official said by telephone.

"GCC nationals are now entitled to own two residential buildings, each with a maximum total floor space of 3,000 square metres," the official said.

"They also can own warehouses and commercial property suitable for the size of their Kuwait-based businesses," the official, who did not wish to be identified, told Reuters.

Citizens of the GCC states of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and Yemen may also own businesses in Kuwait.

But they have hitherto been allowed to own property only for housing purposes, with the limit set at one building with a maximum floor space of 3,000 square metres.

Non-GCC citizens may not own property or businesses. Kuwait is trying to strengthen economic links with fellow GCC members to boost the grouping's political cohesion and give the oil-dependent states more clout in international trade negotiations.

Kuwaitis say few GCC nationals own property in the emirate, which is in the midst of economic downturn and has one of the world's most expensive property markets.

A 500 square metre plot in a well-to-do area of Kuwait City costs upwards of 200,000 dinars (\$670,000).

One sterling
One ounce of gold

U.S. \$1.00 costs 1.3458/68
1.5575/85
1.7440/50
1.2940/50
32.01/05
5.3125/75
1565.67/1
99.64/74
7.4959/59
6.8110/60
6.1054/04
\$1.5748/58
\$392.75/393.25

Canadian dollar
Deutschmarks
Dutch guilders
Swiss francs
Belgian francs
French francs
Italian lire
Japanese yen
Swedish crowns
Norwegian crowns
Danish crowns

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Monday.

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U.S. \$1.00 costs 1.3458/68
1.5575/85
1.7440/50
1.2940/50
32.01/05
5.3125/75
1565.67/1
99.64/74
7.4959/59
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Japan wins first gold of Asian Games

HIROSHIMA, Japan (AP) — China's three smallest women weightlifters started their nation on its way to another big gold haul by smashing world records Monday, and its swimmers followed up by winning three of four races.

Host Japan swept the first four gold medals in its native sport of karate and won one swimming race and the equestrian team dressage event.

But the Japanese still ended the first full day of competition trailing China eight to six in gold medals. The Chinese won the men's gymnastic team event — ahead of South Korea and Japan. And China's Dong Zhaozhi tipped the balance by defeating Japan's Yoshihide Nagano in the men's foil fencing final.

In total medals, China and Japan were tied with 12 each. Indonesia had six — three silvers and three bronzes.

Over the two weeks of competition among nearly 5,000 athletes, China was expected to win the overall medals race for the fourth consecutive games, and the big battle was between Japan and South Korea for second.

The South Koreans had just two silvers and two bronzes on Monday, however.

Attention focused on the swimming pool after China's women won 12 of 16 events last month in the world championships in Rome.

But it was newcomer Shan Ying who stole the spotlight, winning the women's 100-metre freestyle in the third

best time ever and edging Chinese teammate Lu Bin, the silver medalist in Rome. Shan finished in 54.40 seconds, a games record, and Lu in 54.42. World record holder Le Jingyi sat out this race, but is to compete in Saturday's 50 freestyle.

China's other winners were veteran Lin Li, ahead of world champion teammate Dai Guohong, in the women's 400-metres individual medley, and Xiong Guoming, who beat two Japanese in the men's 200 freestyle.

For Japan, Akira Hayashi beat two Chinese in the men's 100 breaststroke. Lin finished in 4 minutes, 40.47 seconds, with Dai second in 4:45.64 and Japan's Hitomi Machara third in 4:46.42.

Xiong lowered the games men's 200 freestyle record to 1:50.95, finishing just ahead of Japan's Taisai Maeda, who was timed in 1:51.08.

Hayashi also set a games record, 1:02.04, with China's Wang Yuyu second in 1:03.42. China's Chen Jianhong, who held the old record of 1:02.60, took the bronze in 1:03.94.

In the women's 46-kilogramme weightlifting division, China's Guan Hong hoisted a total of 182.5 kilograms (401.5 pounds), well better than the world mark of 165 (363 pounds) set by China's Luo Hongwei last December in China.

Sanga Wangkiree of Thailand won the silver medal with 177.5 (390.5 pounds), and India's Mameirakpan

Kunjarani won bronze with 172.5 (379.5 pounds).

World champion Liu Xihua broke her own record of 187.5 (412.5 pounds) with a total of 197.5 (434.5 pounds). Indonesia's Binti Wasiman Supeni followed with 180 (396 pounds) and South Korea's Choi Myung-Shik was third with 177.5 (390.5 pounds).

Zhang Juhua lifted a total of 202.5 (445.5 pounds) in the 54-kilogramme competition, beating the record of 200 (440 pounds) set by teammate Chen Xiaoming, who has moved up to a higher weight division. Karnam Malleswari of India was the silver medalist with 195 (435.6 pounds). Indonesia's Farnawati took the bronze with 182.5 (401.5 pounds).

The Chinese were favoured to sweep all nine women's weightlifting golds in these games.

Japan, meanwhile, was expected to take all 11 golds in karate, a fighting art making its debut in the games, where it joins Korea's taekwondo, China's Wushu and the Olympic sport of judo, also a Japanese creation.

Japan's Hisami Yokoyama shadow-boxed her way to these games' very first gold medal, winning in the kata competition, in which the athletes perform against an imaginary opponent. Five judges rate them on their technique in attacking, defending and counterattacking.

"I'm overwhelmed to have won the first medal of the games," said the 29-year-old

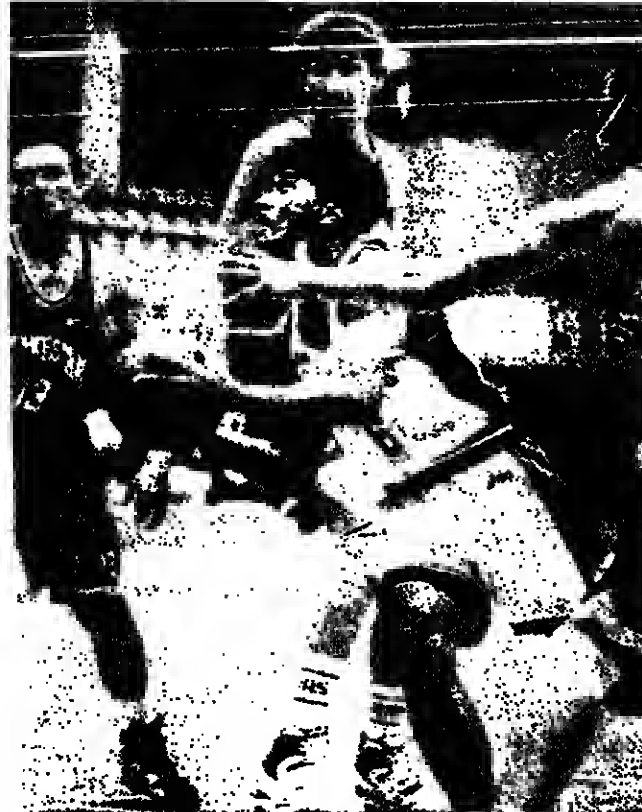


Photo above, Renato Augustin of the Philippines (centre) breaks through the Kazakhstan defence during their match at the Asian Games. The Philippines defeated Kazakhstan 89-76. On right, China's Shang Ying celebrates her victory after taking the gold medal in the women's 100m freestyle event Monday at the games. Shan won the gold with a time of 54.40 seconds. Compatriot Lu Bin took the silver (AFP photo)

high school teacher, who began learning karate at age 9. She was awarded 48.1 points, to 46.5 for Omira Olga Ompi of Indonesia and 46.1 for Chen Shu-Chen of Taiwan.

In the Kumite division, involving actual bouts but with punches pulled, Hiromi Hasama defeated Pham Hong Ha of Vietnam for the 53-kilogramme division gold medal.

New sex row at Asian Games

HIROSHIMA, Japan. (R) — A sexually suggestive booklet was handed out at official Asian Games sites here on the weekend promoting nightclubs, including one where women wear wedding dresses, and gay pubs.

Games organisers are already embroiled in a sex row over their decision to only issue "condoms on demand" to athletes and the booklet is likely to set off a new furore.

The booklet, called "Hiroshima Night Walker," included a message from Toshihiko Masui, the accommodation chief of the Asian Games.

The 42-page guide to the steamy side of nightlife in this western city which boasts one

of Japan's most powerful Yakuza gangs, has a cover photo showing a woman wearing only a man's jacket and holding a bottle of alcohol.

It recommends 60 nightclubs, Karaoke Bars and gay pubs with names like "Fairy", "Marlene" and "Fuzz".

Photos show women in different poses wearing everything from wedding dresses to kimonos to cheerleading outfits.

"There are 30 beautiful girls here," one advertisement said.

Gay bar advertisements show young men with their shirts open and one establishment boasts an owner who is a former volleyball player who is 190 cm (six feet three

inches) tall.

Entrance prices range from 2,000 yen to 16,000 yen (\$20 to \$160) with the sky the limit for other services.

"We hope we can put this 'Hiroshima Night Walker' to practical use together with a tourist guide as well as restaurant guides in order to know Hiroshima," games accommodation chief Masui wrote.

Although condoms have been handed out freely at recent major sports events as an anti-AIDS measure, organisers here require athletes to pick them up at the athletes' medical centre.

Athletes can only receive three condoms each time they ask.

Name card exchange adds to games row

HIROSHIMA (R) — Taiwanese Vice Premier Hsu Li-Teh, defying pressure from China, made a round of Asian Games cocktail parties Monday adding fuel to a row over his presence at the event.

Taiwan currently has no formal diplomatic relations with any Asian Country, which is the reason Beijing has protested so vehemently at Hsu's presence in Hiroshima, seeing it as setting a precedent for other contacts. Chinese officials became particularly incensed when they saw Hsu exchange name cards Sunday night with Japan's Education Minister Kaoru Yosano during one party.

China officially protested at the action saying it showed Hsu was not at the games only for sporting reasons but was involved in political contacts with Japan.

Japan's chief government spokesman, Kozo Igarashi told a news conference the meeting was unofficial. "Their meeting and exchange of cards is solely a common courtesy and not a (political) issue," Igarashi said.

Hsu insists his attendance at the Asian Games is strictly for promoting sports and vote getting for Taiwan's bid for the 2002 Asian Games.

"We belong to the Asian Games, we have the right to be here, we don't wish to create any conflict," Hsu said. "We have no reason not to do we have the manpower today to be in conflict with any government."

While there is already discussion in Taiwan about which city should hold the 2002 Asian Games, the chances of the event taking place there are slim.

Asked if Taiwanese President Lee Teng-Hui would be making a trip to Japan later this year, Hsu said he was not clear on any dates or methods in which Lee would come to Japan.

But it is unlikely Japan would allow any Taiwanese official to visit Japan after being caught in the present sporting triangle between Taiwan, China and itself.

Japan desperately needs China's support for its bid for a permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council, a vote China has already threatened to withdraw over the Hsu issue.

Hsu leaves for Tokyo Wednesday for a two-day private visit before he returns to Taiwan. "The Japanese government is in a difficult situation and they wish to maintain their relationship with China," Hsu told Reuters.

Illegal workers deported after posing as athletes

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Fifty-five Filipinos posing as Asian Games athletes were deported from Japan after officials discovered the group wanted to slip into that country illegally and find jobs, it was reported Monday.

The Ersatz athletes wore fake Philippine team uniforms, simulated stickers on their baggage and carried forged identification cards when they showed up at the airport in Fukuoka on the

southernmost main Japanese island of Kyushu, the newspaper People's Tonight reported.

They were sent back to the Philippines late Sunday. People's Tonight quoted the group's leader, Jerry Velasco, as saying the counterfeit competitors hoped to slip into Japan because its government had waived visa requirements for athletes in the games, which opened Sunday in Hiroshima, also on Kyushu.

Computer trounces grandmasters in a Boston chess tournament

BOSTON (R) — WeHess, a new chess-playing computer programme, beat four grandmasters and ducled two to a draw Sunday to become the first programme to win the five-year-old Harvard Cup Humans Versus Computer Intel Chess Challenge.

The win showed how close machines have come to consistently trouncing all but the best chess players, and how, according to WeHess author David Kittinger, "we're right at the threshold of an era where, unless you're one of the top five grandmasters, you're going to lose your match to a computer."

The only solace for the six grandmasters playing this weekend was that most of the humans won most of the time, getting 24 wins, 13 losses and 11 draws as they faced off against seven programmes in addition to WeHess.

"There is just something

about this programme (WeHess) that is more difficult for humans to figure out," said defending human champion Joel Benjamin, who scored highest among the humans, winning five of his eight games this weekend and battling to a draw three times.

Computerised chess programmes have been gaining on humans for years, propelled by the brute of their light-speed ability to compute all possible moves several plays in advance.

WeHess, for example, can look eight or nine plays ahead to predict where its strengths and weaknesses will be, said Kittinger, who helped design the programme for the popular Chessmaster 2000 and 3000 programmes.

But the creators of chess programmes still haven't been able to bestow creativity and a finely-honed sense of

strategy that allows many grandmasters to consistently outwit the programmes.

Benjamin, who managed to play to a draw against WeHess here at the Computer Museum, explained afterward that when the computer is his opponent, "you want to play a more quiet, strategic game. Played properly, a computer can't get a sense of where the attack is coming from."

The computer decides on its next move using complex mathematical formulas that take into consideration the characteristics of each piece and its position on the board.

WeHess is not yet on the market. Kittinger, in a telephone interview from his home in Mobile, Alabama, said he is currently looking for a publisher and expects the programme to be available to the public sometime next year.

Whitaker wants Chavez next

NORFOLK, VA. (AP) — Pernell Whitaker might be too good.

"I'd like to have him fight three times a year, but he won't take easy fights and it's hard to get the top guys to fight him," promoter Dan Duva said Sunday in the wake of the WBC welterweight champion's convincing victory over James "Buddy" McGirt.

One top guy very much on Whitaker's mind is Julio Cesar Chavez.

"There is really no one but Chavez," Whitaker said. "Zero, because he's not man enough." Duva said of Chavez when asked about the chances for a Whitaker-Chavez rematch, Chavez is promoted by Don King.

Their first fight did nothing to damage Whitaker's reputation even though it ended in a draw. One of the few people who thought Whitaker didn't win — besides the two judges who scored it

even — was Chavez.

Whitaker wants very much a chance to point out to the Mexican his error in judgement.

Saturday night, before 9, 158 hometown fans, the 30-year-old Whitaker showed McGirt that when he is at the top of his game, even two hands aren't enough for an opponent.

When the left-handed Whitaker won the 66.5-kilogramme (147-pound) title from McGirt on March 6, 1993, in New York City's Madison Square Garden, McGirt claimed he lost because he was a one-armed fighter. A week after the match, he had surgery to repair a torn rotator cuff in his left shoulder.

McGirt said his left shoulder and arm were fine for the rematch, but he threw few left hooks and was not effective with his jab. The reason was Whitaker.

Kenya dominates cross-country race

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — Benson Masya outkicked William Musyoki and beat his fellow Kenyan by two seconds Sunday to win the Lidingoloppet, the world's biggest cross country race.

Masya, coming off a successful two-month road racing campaign in the United States, covered 30 kilometres in 1 hour, 37 minutes and 2 seconds.

It was 10 seconds faster than Masya's winning time in 1992, when he also became a world half-marathon champion. He didn't finish here last year, when an injury caused by a traffic accident earlier in the year spoiled much of his season.

"I'm glad I've managed to come back," Masya said. "It was a tough race, one of the most competitive I've had in cross country running."

Neema Taluway of Tanzania placed third in 1:37:12. Jimmy Muindi, another Kenyan who was runnerup last year, was fourth in 1:37:26. The powerful Kenyans dominated the race with five runners in the top eight. British marathoner Andy Green was the leading European, finishing seventh in 1:40:39.

Teca Loroupe of Kenya, the 10,000-metre champion at the Goodwill Games, won the women's 15k race in 53:23, one second slower than her winning time two years ago.

Catherine McKiernan of Ireland, runnerup in each of the last three world cross country championships, was second in 53:54.

More than 30,000 runners entered the 30th edition of the Lidingoloppet.

GOVERN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSHI
& TAMMAM HIRSHI
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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ A Q J ♠ A J 9 8 4 ♠ A 1 0 9 7
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 3 ♦

—Preemptive
What action do you take?
A.—The auction has climbed to an uncomfortably high level, but partner doesn't need much to give you play for game. The problem is that you only have three hearts. Nevertheless, we would double—since partner hasn't bid, that's for take-out—and take our chances despite the fact we could be headed for a catastrophe.

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ K J 10 9 7 6 ♠ A Q 9 8 ♠ Q 9 5
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

What do you bid now?
A.—While the club fit has improved your hand, you can't be sure the king of hearts is a working value. It's a choice between three clubs and two spades and the sixth spade tells us to the latter. Bid two spades.

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ A 9 7 ♠ Q 10 8 6 ♠ 4 ♠ A 9 5
The bidding has proceeded:

you hold:
♠ A 4 ♠ A 6 ♠ 9 3 ♠ K Q J 9 7 5 2
Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?
A.—Suppose you were to bid two clubs and partner rebids two hearts. Without telling a whopping lie about your distribution, you have no good reason to avoid that problem. Jump to three clubs—your suit is self-aussaining. Then you can simply rebid clubs to convey the picture of a powerful one-suited hand.

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ A K 1 0 9 ♠ Q ♠ A K J 10 8 3 ♠ 7 2
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one heart. What action do you take?
A.—Normally, we don't recommend a talent double on a two-suited hand. Here, however, any other choice runs the risk of losing a possible spade fit. The hand has enough playing strength to double and correct any number of clubs partner may bid to diamonds.

Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ A 9 7 ♠ Q 10 8 6 ♠ 4 ♠ A 9 5
The bidding has proceeded:

South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♣ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

What do you bid now?
A.—We would jump to four spades if partner's bid guaranteed a four-card suit. However, there are hands where partner might have to bid a three-card fragment, so the more prudent course is to raise only to three spades. Naturally, a raise of responder's second suit after a two-over-one response is forcing and confirms four-card support.

Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ K 10 ♠ 7 5 ♠ A 9 8 6 5 2 ♠ J 9 8 2
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?

What do you bid now?
A.—This is a similar case to the previous problem. There are times when partner might jump shift in a three-card holding, so you should avoid raising with poor four-card support if there is an alternative. Instead of bidding four clubs, bid three diamonds. This still leaves three no trump open as a possible contract.

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Now for the Derby as Sheikh wins Arc

PARIS (R) — Only the Epsom Derby now stands between Dubai's Sheikh Mohammed and a virtual clean-sweep of the world's major classic horse races.

The sheikh inserted another jewel into the crown when Carnegie, one of his four runners, won Sunday's Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe.

It was a third Arc success for trainer Andre Fabre, who sent out five runners, a second for jockey Thierry Jarnet but a first for the sheikh after 12 previous failures.

The sheikh was unable to join the 30,000 other souls at Longchamp, detained at the last minute by affairs of state. The sheikh is his country's defence minister.

But he watched Carnegie's narrow victory on television as the fast-improving colt held off last year's French Derby winner Hernandez by a short neck in an exciting finish.

Racing manager Anthony Stroud said: "Believe you me, he is absolutely delighted."

Since Sheikh Mohammed, 44, entered racing in 1976 he has carried practically all before him.

Major races won include all the Irish classics, the English 1,000 Guineas, Oaks and St. Leger, all the French classics except the 1,000 Guineas, and the Italian Derby and Oaks.

Add to that two Ascot gold cups, the King George VI



French jockey Thierry Jarnet raises his cap on his mount Carnegie after winning the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe (AFP photo)

and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes (twice), the Breeders' Cup Turf in America (twice) and, over jumps, two Cheltenham Champion Hurdles, and you have probably the major player of all time.

Owner of eight studs, the sheikh currently has 616 horses in training, split among 40 trainers in five countries.

Only his brothers, the sheikhs Hamdan Al Maktoum and Maktoum Al Maktoum have been able to rival the achievement.

The Epsom Derby is still eight months away but he sure the sheikh will be pitching hard for what many still regard as the blue riband of the turf.

While all is sweetness in Dubai, there is a gloom over Japan after champion jockey Yutaka Take failed again on leading English-trained horse White Muzzle.

The colt missed the break and Take was never able to lie up with the pace, as instructed by forthright trainer Peter Chapple-Hyam.

White Muzzle, who staged

his challenge on the wide outside, could only finish sixth after being left with too much ground to make up.

The English trainer, who had been obliged by the colt's Japanese owner to put Take in the saddle, was highly critical and hopes regular partner John Reid will be restored as soon as possible.

Chapple-Hyam said: "I told him he would be better off in Japan."

Ironically, Take looked to have partially redeemed himself two races later, passing the post first on another of

the Chapple-Hyam horses, Erin Bird.

But when the gods are angry, they can be very angry. The French stewards, noting some bumping by Take, pushed Erin Bird down to fifth and handed his unhappy Japanese pilot a four-day ban.

Take said of the Arc: "I got a disastrous start. In fact, he had no sort of action at all as we left the stalls and suddenly we were near the back of the field."

"He had recovered by the time we turned into the straight but there was too much ground to make up."

As Take heads back for Japan, spare a thought also for two horses who suffered badly at the hands, or hooves, of the enigmatic English-trained Ezzoud, who finished a close-up fourth.

Millom, darling of the provinces after 10 wins from 10 races, lost his unbeaten record after receiving a kick from Ezzoud down at the start.

Then Apple Tree, who finished third, was hampered in the closing stages as Ezzoud mounted his challenge near the rails.

Rider Walter Swinburn was handed a four-day ban, joining Take among those who would definitely prefer to forget the day.

Meanwhile, winning colt Carnegie is unlikely to race again this season, but Fabre hopes he will remain in training in 1995.

Europe's soccer champions are not yet at their peak

LONDON (R) — It could be because of the demands of the European Champions' League, or just the vagaries of form and luck, but none of the teams who won last season's major leagues are leading their domestic championships after this weekend's action.

European champions AC Milan are fourth in Italy's Serie A, three points behind leaders Parma. Barcelona, beaten in last season's European Cup final by Milan, are ninth in Spain. Bayern Munich are fourth in Germany, Paris St. Germain sixth in France and Manchester United fourth in England.

AC Milan, chasing a fourth successive domestic title, returned to form with a 1-0 win over Brescia following last weekend's loss to Cremonese.

Marco Simone, who scored twice in Wednesday's 3-0 Champions' League win over Salzburg, was on target again, but Milan's next big fixture may not prove to be quite so productive.

The club face a UEFA hearing Thursday following a bottle-throwing incident in which Salzburg's goalkeeper was hit on the back of the head.

If UEFA find Milan guilty, the Italians are likely to be severely punished and may be ordered to replay the match.

Parma beat Torino 2-0 to stay top on goal difference from Roma, who beat Sampdoria 1-0.

Spanish champions Barce-

lona and arch-rivals Real Madrid were both surveying the wreckage of defeats, but the results provoked strikingly different reactions from their respective coaches.

For Johan Cruyff, coach of a Barcelona side beaten 2-1 at Real Zaragoza and still failing to spark, the picture was all black and he blamed his players for lack of effort and concentration.

"This is the kind of game we shouldn't lose even if we wanted to," Cruyff stormed. "People seem to think they can play at half speed and still win matches. They can't if you have eight scoring chances you have to take advantage of some of them."

Real Madrid coach Jorge Valdano was much more phlegmatic about his side's 1-0 defeat at Sporting Gijon, which knocked them off the top.

"The result in no way did justice to the way we played," Valdano said at the end of a game which Madrid dominated throughout, only to fall to a shock goal four minutes from time.

"With this style of play and this amount of effort, one can somehow excuse losing. During this game I felt proud to be coach of this team."

German champions Bayern Munich's uncertain start to the season continued as they fought back from a two-goal halftime deficit to draw 2-2 at Cologne. Christian Ziege and Alexander Zickler scored for Munich, who together with Karlsruhe and Kaiserslautern, are one

point behind joint-leaders Werder Bremen and Borussia Dortmund.

Werder, however, could move two points clear when they face Hamburg Thursday.

Goals from Francis Ilacer and Brazilian midfielder Rai gave French champions Paris St. Germain a 2-1 win at bottom-of-the-table Caen but PSG stay seven points behind unbeaten league leaders Nantes who were involved in a remarkable 3-3 draw with Bordeaux where the drama continued long after the final whistle.

Bordeaux goalkeeper Gaetan Huard set the ball rolling when he called referee Marcel Laine a thief for awarding Nantes a penalty — for a foul seen only by the match official — two minutes from time with the score at 2-2.

Huard got a red card for his jibe but his team managed a last minute equaliser through a dazzling Christophe Dugary volley in the dying seconds.

Afterwards in the dressing rooms Bordeaux President Alain Afflelou claimed Nantes' trainer Jean-Claude Suaudeau had called midfielder Zinedine Zidane a "dirty Arab" during the match.

"It's scandalous," he said. "A man supposed to be the best trainer in France should not talk that way on the team bench."

But Suaudeau angrily denied making the insult. "Afflelou is a disgrace," he said.

Egypt's Zamalek on course for a rare trophy double

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Holders Zamalek of Egypt kept on course for a rare defence of the African Champions Cup title with a narrow win over AS Sogara of Gabon Sunday.

Zamalek are seeking to become only the second club ever to win successive champions cups in the 30-year history of the tournament.

The 2-2 draw in their quarter-final, second leg tie in Libreville gave Zamalek a 3-2 aggregate win and a place in the semifinals.

The Egyptian side is hoping to become the first since Zaire's TP Englebert in 1967-

68 to win back-to-back titles. Zamalek were forced to come from two goals down after 35 minutes to draw in Gabon.

Gbananian international Oscar Laud again got his name on the scoresheet, adding to the goal he scored in the first leg in Cairo last month when Zamalek won 1-0.

Zamalek now meet perennial semifinalists Nkana FC of Zambia in the final four after Nkana squeezed past Simba of Tanzania.

Simba won their quarter-final, second leg match 2-0 but lost 4-3 on aggregate.

Nkana will be making their fifth appearance in the semifinals in the last 10 years but have only reached the final once.

In the African Cup Winners' Cup, Togo's Agaza Omnisport survived an away onslaught to clinch a semifinal berth at the expense of Olympic Beja of Tunisia.

Agaza, finalists in 1983, led 6-1 from the first leg two weeks ago but had to sweat for a 7-5 aggregate win, losing the second leg 4-1.

The Fairytale run of Stade Tannoanais, from the French-ruled Indian Ocean island of Reunion, ended

with a 2-1 aggregate defeat by Kenya Breweries.

A 1-1 draw on the island Sunday was not enough to secure a semifinal place at the first attempt.

But Reunion still has one team left in African competition in their first year of participation since being accepted as an associate member of the Confederation of African Football (CAF).

St Denis, despite a 1-0 loss to Tunisia club JS Kairouan at the weekend, won 5-4 on aggregate to reach the semifinals of the CAF Cup.

Pele's son earns Santos a draw

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Edinho, the goalkeeper son of Brazilian soccer legend Pele, pulled off a string of fine saves to earn his club Santos a 1-1 draw with Flamengo on his first appearance at the Maracana Stadium.

Edinho kept the Flamengo attack at bay for much of the first half and was beaten only by a well-placed shot by Flamengo captain Nelio Shortly before a halftime.

Santos had earlier taken a 20th minute lead when central defender Indio scored with a rasping 25-metre drive.

Edinho was barely called on in the second half as Flamengo's attacks petered out.

Edinho has been a Santos regular since the start of the year but had never played before at the famous Rio de Janeiro Stadium, graced in the past by some of his father's greatest moments.

The Maracana was also where Pele scored his 1,000th goal in professional soccer in 1969.

The game was the first for both teams in Group F of the second stage of the competition.

In the same group, Palmeiras, who took 19 points out of 20 in the first stage of the tournament, needed a bizarre last-minute goal to beat unrated Sport Recife.

A long-range free kick bounced off three sport defenders and into the goal with just 20 seconds remaining.



Real Madrid's Hierro (right) duels with Gijon's Muniz during their Spanish League match Sunday. Sporting de Gijon defeated Real Madrid 1-0 (AFP photo)

Adams to captain England

LONDON (R) — Tony Adams of Arsenal will celebrate his birthday next week by captaining England for the first time in the friendly international against Romania.

Adams, who is 28 two days before the match at Wembley Oct. 12, takes over from the injured David Platt.

But one player he will not be leading into action against the World Cup quarter-finalists is Newcastle striker Andy Cole.

Cole, who has scored 11 goals this season, did not get his expected first England call-up because he is not fully

fit. England coach Terry Venables said after announcing his 19-man squad: "When I spoke to Kevin Keegan (the Newcastle manager) about his players he said that Cole is struggling with a leg problem. He's not training and is less than 100 per cent fit. If I picked him, Kevin said he would have to withdraw him."

Instead, Venables has recalled Newcastle's Peter Beardsley — the 33-year-old whose career he revived at the end of last season — after injury.

Paul Ince, who had to withdraw from last month's squad for the 2-0 win against the United States, is back, while Dennis Wise and Neil Ruddock, late additions against the Americans, retain their places.

Liverpool centre-back Ruddock could win his first cap and another first cap could go to yet another Newcastle player, Robert Lee, the natural stand-in for Platt, who hurt his knee playing for Sampdoria last week. Lee has also scored 11 goals this season.



Roberto Baggio

Baggio and Baresi out of Italy squad

ROME (R) — Coach Arrigo Sacchi Sunday omitted striker Roberto Baggio and defender Franco Baresi from his 18-man Italian squad to play Estonia in a European championship qualifier next Saturday.

Italy's two most celebrated players have both been struggling with injury and the cautious Sacchi decided not to risk them for the Group Four match in Tallinn.

World Cup hero Baggio returned to action for Juventus Sunday in their Serie A match with Inter after a four-week absence with a thigh injury.

Italy captain Baresi missed AC Milan's 1-0 win over Brescia Sunday after suffer-

ing a head injury in their European Cup Champions' League win over Salzburg last Wednesday.

Sacchi is looking for a huge improvement on last month's 1-1 draw with Slovenia in Italy's opening qualifier for the 1996 European Championship.

The coach has called up uncapped Milan goalkeeper Sebastiano Rossi, finally rewarding him for superb club performances in the past year.

He has recalled bald-headed Sampdoria winger Attilio Lombardo, omitted from the squad which reached the World Cup final last summer.

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	CARLITO'S WAY Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:45 Friday for children. The Care Bears at 11:00 a.m.		SPANISH ROSE Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30		CONCORD "1" SPEED Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30 CONCORD "2" SLEEP WALKERS Shows: 3:15, 5:15		Cinema and Theatre Presents the political comedy: Legal Evening Entertainment Starring: Abeer Issa, Daoud Jalajel, Hassan Al Shaer and Mahmoud Abu Gharib. For reservation call tel: 618274-618275		Today & Everyday Abu Awwad in social comedy "PUNCTURED BAG"		Presents: The political satire: Al Salam Ya Salam Daily at 8:30 p.m. Saturday & Sunday is the theatre's holiday.	

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran needs Iraq, official says

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran has a strategic interest in having Iraq reemerge as a regional power, a senior Iranian official said Monday as he called for a lifting of the U.N. embargo against Baghdad. "For our national security and interest, there is nothing more vital than a stable and prosperous regime in Baghdad," the deputy head of parliament's foreign affairs subcommittee, Mohammad Javad Larjani, told Monday's Iran News. Such a government is needed to "defend the sovereignty and integrity of the country against" foreign threats, he told the English-language newspaper. Mr. Larjani said it was in Iraq's interest to have "good neighbourly" relations with the Islamic republic, adding that Tehran had "already welcomed" improving ties. He called for the lifting of the four-year U.N. embargo on Baghdad, saying the punishment imposed after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990 had "lost its legitimacy." He argued that the presence of the United States in the Gulf was based on the "threat" posed by the President Saddam Hussein to the fragile and primitive regimes in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. But Washington's "odd and ambitious" strategy in the Gulf would eventually end up destabilising the Gulf Arab states, Mr. Larjani predicted, adding that Tehran and Baghdad would be the main beneficiaries.

Two more Jewish settlers arrested

TEL AVIV (AP) — Police on Monday arrested two more Israelis suspected of membership in a Jewish armed underground that planned to wage attacks against Palestinians. The arrests brought to 14 the number of suspects held in the case since Sept. 2, including seven who have been released after questioning, Israeli radio said. Most suspects live in the Jewish settlement Kiryat Arba next to the West Bank city of Hebron, where an extremist settler shot and killed at least 29 Palestinians at a Muslim shrine in February. The Israeli news agency Itim identified those detained after midnight in their homes in Kiryat Arba as Yisrael Ben-Aharon, 35, a French immigrant and chemist, and Yehiel Hetzroni, 43, an electrician and father of nine. Mr. Hetzroni's wife Sofia told the radio that her husband was roused from sleep at 1 a.m. (2300 GMT), and that she did not know where he was being held. Itim said Mr. Hetzroni once studied Talmud with Rabbi Ido Elba, another suspect, who lives in Hebron and is considered the spiritual leader of the group. The Maariv daily has reported that Rabbi Elba wrote an article for pupils, teaching that "as long as the war is not over, it is proper to kill any gentile, even women and children."

Saddam's Shiite advisor killed

NICOSIA (AFP) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein ordered the assassination of one of his advisors for suspected contacts with opposition groups, the opposition Iraqi National Congress (INC) said Sunday. Shiite advisor Kanaan Mustafa Kanaan was shot dead "with his cousin and driver in an ambush carried out on Sept. 12 by the authorities" of President Saddam, the INC said in a statement sent to AFP. The attack on the Basra-to-Fao road in southern Iraq "was planned because of rumours of contacts with the opposition," the INC added. Kanaan belonged to the Tamim tribe, one of the largest and oldest Shiite tribes in Iraq. According to the INC, he had taken part in a rebellion in southern Iraq following the January-February 1991 Gulf war. But he was pardoned by President Saddam and taken on as an advisor.

Protest in France against school veil ban

LILLE, France (AFP) — One hundred people, including 20 girls wearing Muslim headscarves, demonstrated in a high school here on Monday against a government ban on wearing the Islamic veil in schools. Twenty-two of the Faidherbe high school's girls habitually wear headscarves, but were told by headmaster Michel Thomas last week that from this Monday, he would apply a ban ordered by Education Minister Francois Bayrou on "ostentatious" religious insignia. The girls, accompanied by fellow pupils and parents, including mothers also wearing scarves, unfurled a banner in the school courtyard saying "Stop attacks on Islam." A group of bearded Muslims demonstrated outside the school and one was arrested by police. The girls refused to go into class, but Mr. Thomas said he had not intended to lock them out, but to try to find a compromise solution.

Textile workers end strike in Egypt

CAIRO (AFP) — Workers at a state textile factory in Egypt's Nile Delta ended a strike Monday after clashes with police left three people dead and 40 injured there at the weekend, labour union officials said. The 3,000 strikers had been staging a sit-in since Saturday to protest the non-payment of bonuses and allowances for months as well as to support 2,000 colleagues who were laid off or moved to administrative posts. They decided to end their action after the director of the Kafr Al Dawar factory, 190 kilometres northwest of Cairo, agreed to restore the payments. Labour Minister Ahmad Al Anawi, quoted by the government daily Al-Ahram on Monday, said the decision followed negotiations Sunday between the director and workers' representatives. The management also granted paid leave to the workers until next Saturday. Three people, including a nine-year-old child, were killed and injured in clashes between relatives of the striking factory workers and security forces Sunday. Eleven policemen were among the injured.

Mubarak amnesties nearly 2,000 prisoners

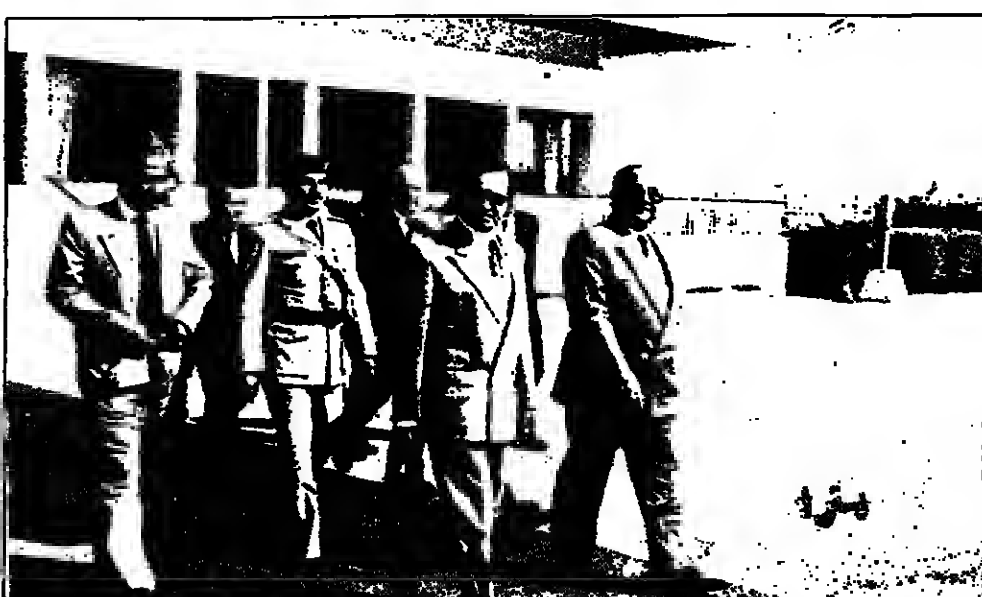
CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, marking the 21st anniversary of the 1973 Arab-Israeli war, has amnestied 1,960 people imprisoned for avoiding military service or committing small crimes, an official said. General Nabil Seyam, a senior interior ministry official, told Monday's edition of the semi-official daily Al-Gumhuriya that the prisoners had completed one-third of their sentences. Gen. Seyam said the amnesty did not apply to prisoners found guilty of murder, drug-trafficking, embezzlement, nor to Islamic militants. During the war of Oct. 6, 1973, the Egyptian army crossed the Suez Canal which Israel had occupied since the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

4 Iranians, Japanese arrested for armed robbery

TOKYO (AFP) — Police arrested four Iranians and a Japanese on Monday on suspicion they robbed a security van carrying 42.4 million yen (\$424,000) last month in eastern Japan, officials said. The five were also detained on suspicion of being involved in other robbery cases totalling 100 million yen, the officials said. Guards in the van, which was carrying cash from a supermarket, were held up at gunpoint in Yokohama, east of Tokyo, on Sept. 14. Police said they were still looking for other suspects.

Israelis warned not to take flights over Iran

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's adviser issued a warning to Israelis on Monday not to take flights over Iranian territory. "Israeli tourists must ensure they use airlines which do not cross through the airspace of hostile countries, particularly Iran," General Igal Pressler said in a statement. He has asked Israeli travel agents to draw up itineraries to avoid Iran on trips to Asia. Israel considers Tehran one of its most dangerous foes and has regularly accused the Iranian government of being behind anti-Israeli attacks across the world.



MAHATHIR ENDS VISIT: Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad, who ended a four-day visit to Jordan and left for Turkey, is seen off upon departure by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and other officials (Pera photo)

Ekeus seeks to speed up Iraq weapon monitoring

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — U.N. disarmament chief Rolf Ekeus said on Monday he was aiming to speed up Iraq's implementation of U.N. resolutions as he arrived here on a mission to launch long-term weapons monitoring.

Mr. Ekeus is to stay in Iraq for three or four days before an expected announcement that surveillance systems at military production sites have been activated.

"I am here for the purpose of trying to speed up the process of Iraqi implementation of the resolutions and I will have talks with Iraqi officials. That is the most important task," he said.

He is also due to submit a written report to the U.N. Security Council "before Oct. 11" on the monitoring system, he added.

Baghdad maintains it has complied with U.N. resolutions demanding it destroy its weapons of mass destruction and allow long-term monitoring as conditions for lifting sanctions imposed when it invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

Mr. Ekeus, who is head of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) which was set up to disarm Iraq after the 1991 Gulf war, said he was to make an assessment of the U.N. monitoring centre in Baghdad which is "now operational."

The centre was set up to gather data received from monitoring equipment including cameras installed on Iraqi military sites.

But Mr. Ekeus refused to be drawn on a proposed six-month probationary period for testing the monitoring system.

Iraq's Information Minister Yousef Hamadi, in a recent statement, linked the activation of the monitoring plan to the lifting of the international sanctions.

Several countries, including France, Russia and China, have said the U.N. Security Council should consider easing the sanctions after a six-month trial period.

Baghdad says Washington wants to block an easing of the embargo and has threatened to stop cooperating with UNSCOM if the United Nations yields to American "pressure."

Mr. Ekeus said he had held talks on Friday in New York with Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz, but refused to discuss whether the talks were positive or not.

On the eve of Mr. Ekeus' visit, UNSCOM spokesman Tim Trevan also refused to lay down a timescale for testing any long-term monitoring system.

He told reporters in Manama: "What is important for us is the criteria of the monitoring and not the time."

Furthermore, it's up to the U.N. Security Council to decide on the test period and when it should start.

Mr. Ekeus denied there were differences of opinion in the council over any easing of the sanctions, which have crippled the Iraqi economy, saying it "is fundamentally united on this issue."

He was due to meet Iraqi officials late Monday for talks on technical matters.

U.N. inspectors have been eliminating Iraq's weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles with a range of more than 150 kilometres since a U.S.-led coalition ousted Baghdad from Kuwait in the January-February 1991 Gulf war.

Other U.N. conditions for lifting the sanctions include Iraq's recognition of Kuwait's territorial integrity and the border between the two countries.

An Iraqi opposition group Monday urged Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller not to loosen U.N. trade sanctions on Iraq and review Ankara's recent efforts to improve relations with its neighbour.

The London-based Free Iraqi Council said in a letter to Ms. Ciller, made available to the Associated Press: "We appeal to you to reconsider the change in the policy of your country towards Saddam Hussein's regime by siding with our people through tightening the noose around it, isolating it and keeping it an outpost to expedite its fall."

Turkey, which says that it has lost \$20 billion because of the U.N. sanctions on Iraq, is seeking to improve relations with Baghdad, once a major trading partner, and is pressing for sanctions to be relaxed.

The humanitarian aid programme in Iraq faces huge difficulties because donor countries have failed to provide enough funds, the U.N. aid coordinator in Baghdad said Monday.

Mohammad Zejjari said the United Nations was planning to request \$172 million to fund the aid programme over the next six months at a meeting of donor countries in Geneva on Oct. 11.

The programme, launched in February 1991 after the Gulf war to meet the most urgent needs of Iraqis, was "facing huge difficulties due to insufficient contributions," Mr. Zejjari told AFP.

Iraqis have been suffering chronic shortages due to the embargo.

Prices of some basic foods have doubled in Iraq since the United Nations decided to maintain the sanctions at its regular two-monthly review on Sept. 14.

The government has cut the individual monthly rations of flour, rice, sugar and oil.

Mr. Zejjari said the United Nations had only received \$50 million to fund the aid programme out of the \$288 million planned for the period from April 1993 to March 1995.

Arafat not to run for election; Hamas wants strong assembly

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Palestinians want to hold elections on a non-party basis under which the winners would rubber-stamp Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat as chairman of the new authority, officials said Monday.

Local government Minister Saeb Erakat will put the proposals with a polling date in November to Israel during negotiations in Cairo this week on the next stage of autonomy.

Under the plan, much of which Israel rejects, especially the date, Mr. Arafat will not stand for election but be returned automatically as the Palestinian leader by a 100-member council.

Mr. Arafat will nominate 10 members and 14 Palestinians from the diaspora to an executive, called the Palestinian Authority, although he can alter the balance as he feels fit.

The council will have power to impeach members of the authority, but not to overturn Mr. Arafat.

The West Bank would be divided into eight electoral districts, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip into three districts, with each represented in the autonomy council in proportion to the number of voters within it.

Only one round of single member voting will be held and the district breakdown

will be as follows: Gaza will return 37 members, Hebron 13, Ramallah 10, Nablus nine, Tulkarem nine, Jenin eight, Jerusalem six, Bethlehem six and Jericho two.

Voters — men and women aged over 18 on polling day — would be residents of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip or East Jerusalem and carry election cards from a census.

An election commission will be formed of three judges and two university chancellors appointed by Mr. Arafat to supervise the balloting along with the international observers.

Candidates would be aged over 30 years, resident in the above areas and declare themselves 20 days before the vote with a \$100 deposit.

Platforms deemed racist, such as calling for the killing of Jews, would be banned.

They would also be required to declare their personal wealth and receive funds for the three-week campaign. Candidates would be granted equal air time on Palestinian radio and television.

Dr. Erakat, who drew up the proposals, notes that mosques, churches and schools would not be used for campaigning.

Some 4,500 election officials would oversee voting at 1,500 polling stations.

Israel wants to restrict the council to 20 members, prevent East Jerusalemites from

standing and keep polling stations out of the eastern sector of the city.

The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, called Monday for a Palestinian parliament to have powers to scrap the autonomy deal with Israel if it is to take part in elections.

As Israel and the PLO began negotiations on the elections in Cairo, a senior Hamas figure told AFP the fundamentalists wanted powers far exceeding those sought by Mr. Arafat.

"We would want more authority than the PLO can get from Israel. Can it have a parliament that would demand to cancel the autonomy agreement? That is what we are asking for," said Ismail Haniyeh of Hamas.

"We want a legislative council that would take decisions and pass laws suitable to the ambitions of the Palestinian people."

Hamas is considering forming a separate political party to run in elections if certain conditions are met, he said.

Open to Palestinians of different allegiances, and possibly named the Palestinian Islamic Party, it would not replace Hamas, which would continue to fight Israel.

The council must meet Palestinian rights to "live freely and independently on all the land of Palestine," Mr. Haniyeh explained.

Israel allows Kiryat Arba flats to be rented

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — In a further easing of Israel's settlement freeze in the occupied West Bank, the Israeli government has freed more than 100 homes in five townships for rental, an official said Monday.

The move followed reports that some settlements in the occupied zone may be expanded, an action that could solidify Israel's negotiating stance in talks underway in Cairo about spreading Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, confirmed a front-page report in the Haaretz daily saying that 87 homes were being opened to rental in four settlements located between the Palestinian cities of Ramallah and Nablus in the West Bank.

Dozens more apartments were being rented out in Kiryat Arba, the Jewish settlement next to Hebron that has made headlines lately as the hometown of more than a dozen Israelis arrested in the past month of suspicion of forming a Jewish terror underground to attack Palestinians.

The settler who gunned down more than 30 Palestinian worshippers in Hebron in February also lived there.

Some of the homes were constructed by the last right-wing government. But Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin blocked residents from moving in after imposing a settlement freeze when he was elected in 1992.

The United States hinged its \$10 billion in loan guarantees to Israel on freezing expansion of the settlements, seen as an impediment to Middle East peace.

Last week cabinet ministers said construction may be renewed in some Jewish settlements near the Israeli frontier. Mr. Rabin later said he was reconsidering after left-wing officials complained that the construction would violate the September 1993 peace accord with the Palestinians.

Some 120,000 Israelis live in over 130 settlements built in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has condemned the building plans as a violation of last year's peace deal with Israel providing self-rule.

Talks between Israel and the PLO on extending Palestinian self-rule beyond Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho began in Cairo on Monday. Final settlement talks are to start no later than May 1996.

Mr. Rabin's building curbs in 1992 won Israel \$10 billion in U.S. loan guarantees over a five-year period. The underwriting was denied to the previous government that pushed settlement.

The finance ministry said on Saturday that Washington would deduct \$216 million from its 1995 loan guarantee quota to Israel against money the Israeli government had invested in Jewish settlements in the past year.

For the first time, Washington offset Israel's investment in the territories against its spending on peace with the Palestinians, in the amount of \$94 million.

leave the country Saturday in exchange for the expulsion of two Egyptians from Khar-toum.

Mr. Musa said he told Mr. Abu Salih it was important to maintain good relations between the two countries and Sudan's government "holds a great part of responsibility in this respect."

Relations between the two countries have deteriorated since 1991 when Sudan sought to 'lease oil rights in Halaib to a Canadian firm.

Cairo also has accused Sudan's Islamic fundamentalist government of supporting radicals seeking to overthrow Egypt's secular government.

Sudan denies the charge and accuses Cairo of playing host to the Sudanese opposition.

Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak has pledged never to resort to force against Sudan despite the tension between the two countries.

The two countries have been criticising each other through their state-controlled media, and Egypt ordered two Sudanese diplomats, to

demanded the move as a precondition for agreeing to an Israeli request for \$10 billion to help house hundreds of thousands of Soviet emigrants arriving in the Jewish state.

Under the arrangement, Israel undertook not to spend any of the loan guarantees, available at \$2 billion every year, on building settlements.

However, the loans freed Israeli funds used elsewhere to be channelled to settlements.

As a punitive measure for violating the under-king, Washington has chipped off \$552 million in American aid to Israel in the last two years from the loan guarantees.

The CAABU statement said the resumption of settlement building, reports of which have been confirmed by Israeli government officials, was a direct violation of the Israel-PLO autonomy agreement.

"It is of the utmost importance at this very sensitive stage in the Palestinian transition to self-government that Israel not only refrains from augmenting its settler presence in the Palestinian territories but ... seeks to reduce it by offering incentives to settlers ... to move back across the green line" — the pre-1967 borders of Israel, said the statement.

"CAABU calls on the British and other European governments to express their deep concern at this Israeli announcement and to urge Washington and Moscow to honour their obligations as sponsors to the peace process, the future of which has again been brought into question," said the statement.

The Israeli freeze on settlements came after Washington

COLUMN

110-year-old woman heads family of 185

DAMASCUS (AFP) — A 110-year-old Syrian woman, Khazna Hussain, heads a flourishing family of 185 children, grandchildren and their descendants, newspapers reported. A midwife by profession, Mrs. Hussain had 14 children of whom seven lived. Now, she knows every one of her younger relatives who regularly ask her to settle family disputes. Mrs. Hussain, of Deraa near the border with Jordan, said she had never gone to a doctor or taken medication, although rheumatism pains had finally sent her to a specialist for advice. In recognition of her long service, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) awarded Mrs. Hussain with a midwife's certificate which she still treasures, she said. At her huge household, always swarming with dozens of children, it is not unusual to hear the cry: "Grandfather, your grandmother is calling you."

India establishes Gandhi Peace Prize

NEW DELHI (AFP) — India has established a "Gandhi Peace Prize," named after the hero of the struggle for independence from Britain and modelled after the Nobel Peace Prize. Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao announced the creation of the Gandhi Peace Prize at a function held here Sunday to mark the 125th anniversary of the birth of Mahatma Gandhi, the apostle of non-violence. Details of the prize would be announced later, he said. It would be India's highest award.

Over 400,000 visit Buckingham Palace

LONDON (AFP) — More than 400,000 people visited Buckingham Palace this summer, the second consecutive year its doors have been open to the public, a spokesman for Queen Elizabeth II's London residence said Sunday. Tours of the palace, which ended Sunday afternoon, generated \$2.5 million (\$3.75 million) of income this year. Last summer, 379,000 Britons and foreigners visited the palace and its souvenir boutique situated in the palace's gardens, bringing in some \$2.2 million (\$3.3 million). All proceeds from tourism at the palace are going to the restoration of Windsor Palace, the queen's preferred residence, which was partially destroyed in a fire in November 1992. The Buckingham Palace boutique carried a wide variety of high-priced products this year, including a limited edition enameled clock costing \$495 (\$750), five times pricier than the most expensive product carried in 1993.

Paula Jones sets deadline for Clinton in suit

WASHINGTON (R) — Paula Jones has given President Bill Clinton one week to apologise in a case of alleged sexual harassment or she will go ahead with a lawsuit against him, her attorney said. "We are asking him to say: 'I am sorry for the untrue assertions which have been made about her, and which have adversely affected her character, good name and reputation,'" her attorney, Gilbert Davis, told Reuters. Ms. Jones has filed a suit against Mr. Clinton for what she said were unwanted sexual advances made against her in May 1991 in a Little Rock Hotel, when Mr. Clinton was governor of Arkansas. She is suing for \$700,000. Mr. Clinton's private attorney, Robert Bennett, said in a New York Times magazine article Sunday that both teams of lawyers had negotiated in May to settle off the expected lawsuit, but that Ms. Jones' backers were unprepared to accept Mr. Clinton's "adamant denial" of the charges. Mr. Davis disputes this version of events, however, saying that in May Mr. Bennett was prepared to authorise a statement saying Mr. Clinton had no recollection of meeting Ms. Jones at the hotel, but did not challenge her claim that they met there.

Israel again cutback

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel's military cutback in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip continued Sunday, with the army withdrawing more troops from the areas. The move was part of a broader effort to reduce the military presence in the territories, a policy that has been a point of contention between Israel and the Palestinians. The cutback was seen as a step towards normalising relations with the Palestinians, but it also raised concerns among some Israeli settlers and politicians about the security of the occupied territories. The army said the cutback was necessary to comply with international law and to promote peace in the region. It also said that the remaining troops would be used to maintain order and protect Israeli civilians. The cutback was part of a series of measures taken by the Israeli government to reduce its military footprint in the occupied territories. These measures included the withdrawal of troops from several settlements and the reduction of military patrols in some areas. The Israeli government has been under pressure from the international community to take steps to reduce its military presence in the occupied territories. The United Nations and other international organisations have called for a complete withdrawal of Israeli troops from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The Israeli government has responded by saying that it is committed to a two-state solution and that it will continue to work towards a peaceful resolution of the conflict. The cutback was seen as a positive step in this process, but it also raised concerns about the security of the occupied territories. Some Israeli settlers and politicians have argued that the cutback would leave the territories vulnerable to Palestinian attacks. They have also argued that the cutback would undermine the Israeli government's commitment to the security of its citizens. The Israeli government has responded by saying that it will continue to work towards a peaceful resolution of the conflict and that it will take all necessary steps to ensure the security of its citizens. The cutback was part of a broader effort to reduce the military presence in the occupied territories, a policy that has been a point of contention between Israel and the Palestinians. The cutback was seen as a step towards normalising relations with the Palestinians, but it also raised concerns among some Israeli settlers and politicians about the security of the occupied territories. The army said the cutback was necessary to comply with international law and to promote peace in the region. It also said that the remaining troops would be used to maintain order and protect Israeli civilians. The cutback was part of a series of measures taken by the Israeli government to reduce its military footprint in the occupied territories. These measures included the withdrawal of troops from several settlements and the reduction of military patrols in some areas. The Israeli government has been under pressure from the international community to take steps to reduce its military presence in the occupied territories. The United Nations and other international organisations have called for a complete withdrawal of Israeli troops from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The Israeli government has responded by saying that it is committed to a two-state solution and that it will continue to work towards a peaceful resolution of the conflict. The cutback was seen as a positive step in this process, but it also raised concerns about the security of the occupied territories. Some Israeli settlers and politicians have argued that the cutback would leave the territories vulnerable to Palestinian attacks. They have also argued that the cutback would undermine the Israeli government's commitment to the security of its citizens. The Israeli government has responded by saying that it will continue to work towards a peaceful resolution of the conflict and that it will take all necessary steps to ensure the security of its citizens.